

## Tomorrow

**Wits**  
Is the City making a killing out of the Government's privatization programme? Jonathan Davis reports.

**Pits**  
The controversial miners' leader Arthur Scargill is the subject of The Times Profile.

**Hits**  
John Hennessy previews golf's World Matchplay Championship at Wentworth.

**Crits**  
The Books Page reviews Paul Theroux on the British, the Gaitskell Diaries and photographic books by Lord Snowdon and David Bailey.



**'Grounded' Soviet jet flies out**  
A Soviet Illyushin 62 passenger aircraft that had been stranded at Heathrow airport, London, because union members refused to lift their ban on working on Aeroflot airlines finally took off at last night without its passengers.

It used engine reverse thrust to push itself away from the aircraft stand and left Britain with only the crew on board and with three hours' fuel supply.

The union ban was in response to the shooting down of the South Korean airliner last month. The Heathrow airliner had at first been advised not to use reverse thrust because of the danger of shattering terminal building windows.

## Far left makes no ground in Kinnock's team

● The far left's hopes of reversing the rightward changes of a year ago on the national executive committee were disappointed.

● Mr Foot, giving his valedictory speech to the Labour Party Conference, received a memorable send-off.

● A strong campaign has started for the job of chief whip with Mr Kinnock's

opposition to the reelection of Mr Cocks "an open secret".

● Government promises to maintain the health service had been destroyed in an avalanche of cuts, cash limits and privatization, a union delegate said.

● Mr Eric Heffer, MP, called for a campaign inside and outside Parliament against the Government's onslaught on local authorities.

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor, Brighton

The Labour Party Conference, as if determined to mend its ways and prospects, yesterday gave Mr Neil Kinnock, its new leader, a team who will work with him, and Mr Michael Foot, its old leader, a memorable send-off.

In the election to the party's national executive committee, the far left, which had hopes of reversing the rightward changes of a year ago, made negligible ground. Their reliable strengths remain, as before, at about nine out of a voting membership of 29, which leaves Mr Kinnock with a comfortable majority for doing anything he is likely to contemplate.

In the trade union section, the champions of the left, Mr Eric Clarke, the miners' workers, and Mr Charles Kelly, of the construction workers, were only runners-up.

The left-wing Mr Douglas Hoyle, of the supervisors union, ASTMS, dislodged the right-wing Mr Denis Howell of Apex (Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs), but Mr Hoyle's union campaigned for Mr Kinnock's election, and he is expected to be supportive.

Mr Michael Meacher and Mr David Blunkett took the two vacant places in the constituency section. Mr Meacher, with a huge vote garnered in his campaign for the deputy leadership.

Both are left, but Mr Meacher disappointed his far left friends by voting for Mr Kinnock rather than Mr Eric Heffer, and

so the leadership is looking for his support.

Mr Blunkett, Labour leader of Sheffield city council, a man of independent mind and forceful speech, is also seen by Mr Kinnock's supporters as one of themselves.

The women's section brought back two former NEC members in Miss Joan Maynard and Mrs Renee Short. Miss Maynard has already made plain her distrust of the new leadership, which counts her as hostile. But Mrs Short, since her nomination, is no longer counted among her former friends on the far left: she voted for Mr Kinnock, and is warm in her approval of him.

Miss Maynard's arrival is belated by the defeat of Dame Judith Hart, a former chairman, whom the far left had tried to keep in place.

Mrs Anne Davis, the moderate first elected last year, lost her place yesterday. Her defeat, and Mr Howell's were the only set backs for the dominant centre-right alliance.

Mr Woodward Benn, no longer an MP, again came top of the constituency section, but it was clear yesterday that this NEC will do as Mr Kinnock wishes, and not choose Mr Benn for his old and influential position as chairman of the home policy committee. Mr Hoyle's name is the one most mentioned in that context.

Mr Foot made a valedictory speech which was received with a warmth exceeding anything which the oldest conference-goers could recall. They cheered him at the start and at the finish and, with a spontaneity not often seen, they sang "For he's a jolly good fellow".

There seemed to be something penitential in their good wishes; many of them had given him a pretty miserable three years in the leadership.

Mr Foot was at ease as he laid his burden down, and had no trouble rousing the delegates with his passion and humour, with his studied hesitancy, his finger tips striking his chin, the tricks of speech they have known for years.

For the election defeat, he told them: "I have to bear the chief responsibility". He was

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**Leader wants chief whip ousted**

From Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent, Brighton

Labour MPs at Brighton are being left in no doubt that Mr Neil Kinnock does not want the reelection of Mr Michael Cocks as the party chief whip.

The new leader's hostility to Mr Cocks was being described yesterday as "an open secret", and that message is being used as part of the strong campaign that started for the chief whip's post.

Nominations have so far been submitted for Mr Cocks and for Mr Terence Davis, MP for Birmingham, Hodge Hill. But further nominations are expected from Mr John Evans, St Helens, North, Mr Peter Snape, West Bromwich, East, and Mr Martin Flannery, Sheffield, Hillsborough.

Ballot papers are to be sent out next Tuesday to the party's 209 MPs, and the result of the first ballot will be declared on October 20, the week before Parliament reassembles.

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that the leadership is looking for his support.

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## Members hit out at Boycott's dismissal

By Richard Streeton

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The meeting has been arranged by Mr Peter Briggs, who was chairman of the former Yorkshire members' reform group. He said it was open to anyone "interested in demanding justice in Yorkshire cricket". The three committee members willing to attend are Sidney Fielden (Doncaster), Peter Charles (Rotherham) and Reginald Kirk (Hull).

There were widespread denials yesterday that he will concede his career in South Africa, where he has spent many winters coaching and playing.

Mr Briggs believes that the logical move for those dissatisfied with the decision would be for them to call a special general meeting of Yorkshire members to put a vote of no-confidence in the committee.

With the county's membership around 10,400, the protesters would need, under the relevant rule, only between 250

to 300 signatures for the meeting to be held within 21 days. When the reform group last called a special meeting in 1979 after Boycott was removed from the captaincy, absentee postal votes swung the victory to the committee.

Boycott, who returned from South Africa overnight on Sunday, spent the day behind the drawn curtains of his house on Woolley, a picturesque South Yorkshire village off the A61 between Barnsley and Wakefield. At least, it is thought he was there. Some 40 reporters and cameramen waited all day outside his property's high fences and its remote-controlled front gate.

Messages were passed in and out by someone understood to be a house decorator who said Boycott was resting and was gathering his thoughts about his future. Nobody could see Boycott, who is believed to be negotiating with a tabloid newspaper for his story. It was a tedious wait for the media, with no pub, no shops and only one telephone in the vicinity.

Senior Yorkshire officials remained silent, their words back in the scabbards. Others were not so reticent. Mr Fielden threatened: "There will be trouble this winter on a scale never witnessed before" - a reference the rest of us must hope refers only to the Yorkshire cricket dispute.

Other reactions, page 24

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MPs yesterday that the weakness of Mr Kinnock's kitchen cabinet, his personal staff, in terms of "sharp end" political experience made the choice of chief whip a matter of prime importance.

But there is no clear front-runner and, despite the fact that Mr Cocks, aged 54, has earned the enmity of many up-and-coming MPs because of the old-fashioned way in which the whip's office was run during the

last Parliament and because of his choice of deputy, Mr Walter Harrison, his chances cannot be discounted.

Nevertheless, the challenge he faces from Mr Evans, Mr Davis and Mr Snape is a strong one.

Mr Evans, aged 53, who has served as Mr Michael Foot's parliamentary private secretary since 1980, was elected yesterday to the national executive and that link with the party's key committee is seen as a strong advantage. His connection with Mr Foot, however, could be a handicap.

Mr Davis, aged 45, has been an opposition spokesman on health since 1980 and it was emphasized yesterday that he had managed to attract support from the left and the right wings of the party.

Mr Snape, aged 41, has been an opposition spokesman on home affairs since last year and previously served as a front bench spokesman on defence and disarmament.

Continued on back page, col 6

**Warsaw faces dilemma**

**Walesa is Nobel favourite**

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm, and Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's outlawed Solidarity movement, is reported to be the front runner among 79 candidates nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

If Mr Walesa is the choice of the prize committee when it publishes its decision today, there will be great jubilation in the West and deep dismay in the Eastern block. It will also be the committee's most controversial choice since 1978 when the prize was awarded to President Sadat of Egypt and Mr Menachem Begin, who was then Israeli Prime Minister.

Anticipating the possibility that Mr Walesa might win the prize, the Polish Government spokesman in Warsaw said yesterday that the nominees were still under investigation for illegally holding bank accounts in the West and for evading Polish taxes. It is clear that the authorities in Warsaw are nervous about him winning the prize for that would undo most of their attempts to discredit him at home.

If, however, the Nobel committee opts for a less controversial figure for the prize, there are plenty of candidates. They include the Pope, Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's former special envoy to Lebanon, Mr Eli Wiesel, the Jewish writer, and Mrs Helen Suzman, the South African opposition politician.

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Mr Urban said yesterday that unauthorized possession of foreign bank accounts was an offence under the 1957 Banking Act as was the evasion of taxes. But he could not say whether Mr Walesa would be brought to trial - that depended on the outcome of the investigations conducted by the Gdansk financial authorities. There was other evidence against him apart from the tape recording.

Mr Walesa did indeed win many foreign prizes - though not the Nobel prize - while he was Solidarity leader but he insists that the money went into Solidarity coffers, not his.

Mr Urban told reporters that Mr Walesa was not the target of a propaganda campaign because his role was not important enough in Polish politics.

**Two letter bombs sent to police**

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Incendiary devices concealed in letters were defused at London offices of the Police Federation and the welfare department of the Metropolitan Police yesterday. No one was injured.

Commander William Huckleby, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorism squad, said later that the devices appeared to be similar to incendiaries sent earlier in the year to the Soviet Embassy and other Russian buildings in London by a group named after a Ukrainian anarchist, the Makhnos Gang.

One device yesterday was delivered to the offices of the Metropolitan Police branch of the Police Federation in Limehouse, east London. The office is listed in the London telephone directory.

The other device was sent to Wellington House, which is close to Scotland Yard in Victoria, central London, and houses the force's personnel departments. Both the devices were hidden inside white envelopes, handwritten and posted in north London.

The incendiaries were made with a simple mechanism of a match and sachet of black powder. They would erupt into a small blaze if the contents of the letter were pulled out.

The two devices delivered yesterday bring the total sent by the group to 10 since March. The last was to the Institute of Directors in May.

**Vauxhall strike collapses**

By Barrie Clement and David Felton

The four-day strike at Vauxhall's three plants collapsed yesterday after two-thirds of the company's 14,500 workers voted to return to work.

Union leaders at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, the only factory standing out against the 7.75 per cent pay offer virtually conceded defeat last night and are expected to recommend resumption of production at mass meetings today.

Mr Gerry Russell, a member of the executive of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers with responsibility for Vauxhall, urged engineering workers who supported the strike, to return to work.

The collapse of the stoppage was provoked by the decision of 7,000 workers at the Luton plant who voted to accept the offer, to call off the strike.

At the Dunstable works, 1,000 members of the Transport and General Workers' Union who voted to accept the offer, are due to resume work this morning. They defied a recommendation from their shop stewards to continue the stoppage by a majority of two to one.

National officers of the three unions involved in the dispute, which also includes the electricians, are due to meet the company in London tomorrow. There is little they can do but accept the offer.

**Quality test**

The term "merchantable quality" should be replaced by a neutral one such as "proper quality" to protect customers' rights, a Law Commission study proposes.

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## Steel doubts

There are further doubts over the British Steel Corporation's fragile joint venture proposal with the United States Steel Corporation involving the Ravenscraig plant in Lanarkshire.

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## Birthday boycott

Celebrations marking the twentieth anniversary of the French Fifth Republic were boycotted by the Socialist Government, which saw the event as a right-wing exercise.

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## Fish deadlock

EEC fisheries ministers meeting in Luxembourg have failed to reach agreement on North Sea herring quotas after two days of negotiations.

Page 6

## Pound falls

The Bank of England is believed to have intervened as sterling fell 90 points against the dollar and 0.2 in its trade-weighted value against a basket of currencies.

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## Reagan offers Russia new weapons deal

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan yesterday announced major new "build-down" proposals for the next round of the strategic arms reduction talks (Start) to reduce long-range nuclear weapons.

With Congressional support, the President said the Soviet Union must start negotiating in good faith. The Russians had still to take their first meaningful step to address earlier American proposals in the Start negotiations, he said.

A senior Administration official explained that, under the build-down concept, every modernized or new land-based missile warhead deployed would have to be accompanied by the destruction of two older warheads.

The proposal will be put at the Start negotiations, which resume tomorrow by Ambassador Edward Rowny, the chief United States negotiator.

The concept was first suggested to the President by Senator William Cohen (Republican, Maine) and Senator Sam Nunn (Democrat, Georgia).

The new Reagan plan is reported to retain his previous key proposal that each of the superpowers should reduce its total of warheads by about one-third to equal levels of 5,000.

Senators and Congressional leaders met the President on Monday to discuss the plan. Senator Charles Percy, the Republican chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, who also attended the meeting, later told reporters: "This is truly a historic moment."

He said it was the first time in the history of Congress and the executive branch that "we have worked out jointly an arms control proposal in which we are truly united."

Several senators and congressmen recently demanded a build-down proposal in return

for their votes for the production of the giant MX intercontinental ballistic missile, which President Reagan maintains is essential to modernize the US nuclear arsenal.

The President's Start initiative follows the proposals he made for the separate Geneva negotiations between the US and the Soviet Union on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) reductions.

The President put the INF proposals during his recent policy speech to the United Nations General Assembly.

In a speech on Monday evening to the tenth anniversary dinner of the conservative Heritage Foundation, he said: "The search for genuine, verifiable arms reduction is not a campaign pledge or a sideline item in my national security."

"Reducing the risk of war and the level of nuclear arms is an imperative, precisely because it enhances our security."

He rejected criticism that the harsh words he has used about the Russians had reduced chances for arms control agreements. "Unilateral restraint and good will does not provide similar reactions from the Soviet Union. And it doesn't produce genuine arms control."

President Reagan at the White House yesterday

**Heseltine and Jenkin fight spending cuts**

By Philip Webster, Political Correspondent

The Treasury is facing strong resistance from departmental spending ministers as it attempts to cut £2,500m from their spending plans for 1984/85.

Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is seeking reductions in the bids submitted mainly by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services.

It is said to be premature to speak of a breakdown in the talks between Mr Rees and the ministers, which are still continuing. Some progress has been made, but a Treasury official acknowledged last night that the talks were proving difficult.

"The target in this year's bilaterals is a tough one requiring difficult negotiations and difficult decisions," he said.

There is increasing expectation that the issue will have to be resolved, as in the past, either by the full Cabinet to which Mr Rees will report when he has gone as far as he can go, or a special Cabinet committee previously dubbed the "star chamber".

Mr Heseltine, still angry at the way he was presented with a £240m cut the day after he published his defence White Paper, is in no mood to give way. Mr Jenkin is defending cuts in urban aid.

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## Memorial in park for IRA victims

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, will today unveil a memorial tablet on the bandstand in Regent's Park, London, to the seven bandmen of The Royal Green Jackets killed by an IRA terrorist bomb while playing on the bandstand in July last year.

Widows and families of the dead soldiers will also be at the service of dedication. So will Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, other government ministers, and senior army officers including Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the Defence Staff.

The reformed band, including many of those injured in the bomb attack, will be on the bandstand.

Señor, the Household Cavalry horse that survived severe injuries received in the bombing, was presented with a bravery award at the Horse of the Year Show yesterday.

## Driving ban on cartoonist

Peter Maddocks, aged 55, a Fleet Street cartoonist, of Bell Tree Grove, Streatham, South London, was fined £100, with £28.12 costs and banned from driving for a year at Horseferry Magistrates' Court yesterday.

He admitted riding his Suzuki motorcycle while unfit through drink in Southwark on August 23.

He told the magistrates that on the night in question he found his studio had been ransacked for the fifth time in four years and he had a bottle of wine when clearing it.

## Telecom protest action widened

The Post Office Engineering Union yesterday widened its industrial action in protest at plans to sell off the public telephone system. Eight key members from the Aberdeen branch were called out on strike in a move designed to affect the maintenance of telegraph and data equipment.

The union said the action would mean that no telegraph or data faults would be dealt with in the Aberdeen area. Oil companies and big business were expected to be affected.

## Costs move to save 'Romans'

Mr Andrew Lea, organizer of the Theatre Defence Fund, set up to protect the play *Romans in Britain*, said yesterday that it will consider underwriting any legal costs incurred in staging the production outside London.

The play, which includes a simulated homosexual rape, was to have been shown this month as part of the Swansea Fringe Festival. It has now been cancelled after threats of legal action by a Swansea city councillor.

## Hillhead unity

A joint SDP/Liberal Alliance committee has been set up in the Glasgow, Hillhead constituency of Mr Roy Jenkins, former SDP leader, the SDP announced yesterday. It would organize campaigning in the constituency.

## School blast

Bomb squad detectives were last night investigating an explosion at Wellington College in Berkshire. Boys queuing in the dining hall were showered with glass as the incendiary device exploded shortly after 1 pm. No one was injured.

## Ships order lost

Harland and Wolff, which last month lost a £4.5m order for the Queen Elizabeth 2, to Germany, narrowly failed to win a £70m order for three tankers for Shell, which goes to South Korea.

# Taxes will rise sharply without big public spending cuts, study says

By Frances Williams Economics Correspondent

The price of failure by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to secure big cuts in public spending in future years could be increases equivalent to between 10p and 15p on the basic rate of income tax, a new study published today says.

If spending is not cut and the economy stagnates, higher taxes will be needed to stop state borrowing from rising sharply, according to calculations by Mr Gavin Davies, of Simon and Coates, the city stockbrokers. That is because slow growth dampens government revenues and pushes up spending on social security benefits, widening the gap to be filled by borrowing.

Unpublished Treasury fore-

casts come to a similar conclusion. Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who is now involved in bruising negotiations with spending ministers on estimates for next year, told the Cabinet in July that longer term spending cuts were essential to avoid tax rises. The Government could not bank on rapid economic growth to bail it out, he said.

To make room for the tax cuts the Government wants dearly, the Cabinet have agreed to aim to reduce public spending to below 40 per cent of the national output by 1988, compared with 44 per cent last year. All departments have been asked to propose cuts to meet that objective.

But Mr Davies suggests that the target will be hard to achieve without annual growth of about 2.5 per cent. If it drops below 1.5 per cent, the share of public spending in the economy is likely to rise.

Borrowing poses an even greater problem for the Chancellor, Mr Davies says. Zero growth after 1984-85 would, without substantial tax increases, double state borrowing to 6 per cent of national output by 1988-89, when the next general election is due.

Even if spending is cut, growth would have to average at least 1.5 per cent a year to make room for tax reductions by keeping borrowing down, Mr Davies estimates.

## Children suffer 45% accidents at home

Children aged under five playing on a summer Sunday afternoon are most at risk of suffering non-fatal injury at home, according to a report published yesterday by the Consumer Safety Unit.

The unit's home accident surveillance system found that 27 per cent of home accidents last year involved small children, and 45 per cent were aged under 16.

The figures are compiled from records at a sample of 20 hospital casualty departments in England and Wales, where a third of all accidents and emergencies were caused at home.

The aim of the unit is to try to "reduce the pain and suffering involved in accidents, and their substantial economic costs", by tracing their causes, according to Mr Alex Fletcher, Under Secretary of State responsible for corporate and consumer affairs.

The unit estimates that there are more than two million accidents in the home every year. Cutting or piercing is the most common injury account-

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME	
Type of accident %	
Fall from stairs	10.3
Fall from bed/chair	0.5
Fall from building	0.5
Fall between two levels	14.2
Fall on same level	14.2
Other fall	1.2
Cutting/piercing	19.2
Struck by object/person	13.0
Burning accident from controlled heat source	5.1
Foreign body	3.8
Accidental poisoning from medicine/ingestion	2.1
Struck by falling object	2.1
Over-exertion accident	1.9
Burning involving uncontrolled fire	0.4
Explosion accident	0.2
Electric current accident	0.1
Radiation accident	0.1
Other	0.8
Unknown	6.0

ing for nearly one in five of the total. One in 10 are falls on stairs, and another three in 10 are falls of some other kind.

Accidents are 40 per cent more frequent in midsummer than in December.

Home Accident Surveillance System, 1982, (Department of Trade and Industry, Millbank, London SW1P).

## BR to cut 10,000 office jobs

By Michael Bailey and David Felton

British Rail is to reduce up to 10,000 administrative jobs and close 19 divisional offices in an 18-month cost-cutting drive, Mr Bert Lyons, general secretary of the Transport Salaried Staff Association, disclosed at the Labour Party conference at Brighton yesterday.

Seven divisional offices in the London Midland Region would go, three on Eastern, six on Western, and three on Southern, Mr Lyons said. A meeting of the "single alliance" of coal, steel and rail unions to fight cuts in their industries.

British Rail confirmed last night that Mr Lyons's figures were broadly correct, and were part of the 15,000 job losses by 1988 foreseen in its corporate plan in August.

The divisional offices to be closed are: Eastern: Doncaster, London King's Cross, London Liverpool Street, Leeds, Norwich (already closed) and Newcastle; London Midland: London Euston, Manchester, Nottingham, Preston, Stoke, Birmingham and Liverpool; Southern: Beckenham, Croydon and Wimbledon; Western: Reading, Bristol and Cardiff.

In Brighton, leaders of seven unions rebuffed the triple alliance in the face of threatened job cuts, which they fear could total 100,000.

The unions are to establish a formal grouping of their sponsored MPs to oppose cuts.

## Polytechnic courses attacked

By David Walker

Sharp criticism by government inspectors of sociology teaching at a London polytechnic has raised doubts about the quality of hundreds of non-university degree courses.

A team of Her Majesty's Inspectors found slipshod teaching, "casual" lecturing and the danger of Marxist bias in two sociology degree courses offered by the Polytechnic of North London. The findings came only months after the courses had been passed by the quango responsible for approving non-university degrees, the Council for National Academic Awards.

Fears were expressed yesterday that other "validation" of degrees by this council, which has a royal charter, might be suspect. Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, is considering a further inquiry into the polytechnic's affairs, but civil servants could not say whether the scope of the council's work would come under scrutiny.

The leader of the CNA's investigation into the polytechnic, Mr John Westergaard, a Sheffield University professor of sociology said: "It is difficult to make any sense of this divergence of view with Her Majesty's Inspectors."

## Backlog of appeal cases falls

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

About 77 per cent of appeals to the Court of Appeal were dismissed by it or by consent. Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, said in a progress report yesterday.

During the past year summary appeals had been discouraged by selective listing, designed to make it unprofitable to launch an appeal solely to achieve delay.

Sir John said it was now becoming known that such appeals received priority in listing and that any postponement of the decision would be short, unless the appeal succeeded.

Sir John said that the function of the court was to correct errors, not provide a second stage in a trial.

This time last year the number of appeals outstanding was about 1,100. In the previous decade the number of appeals awaiting hearing had been rising at more than 10 per cent a year.

If that trend had continued the present waiting list would contain about 1,250 appeals. In fact, the waiting list contained 930 appeals, a reduction of 170 over the year.

Law Report, page 10

## Don suspended

Mr David Hurst, (below), the law lecturer who criticised the "idle life" enjoyed by university dons, was suspended by Reading University yesterday.

Mr Hurst, aged 47, is to face a board of inquiry before the university council decides whether to dismiss him. An internal committee of inquiry has already met.

Mr Edward Bell, assistant registrar said that the suspension was "not a disciplinary measure".

Mr Hurst, who has taught land law and equity at Reading for five years failed yesterday to gain an injunction in the High Court setting the suspension aside because the university was not named in the action. He said later he would try again this week.



Mr Nicholas Norman (left), master of The Armouries, showing the suit yesterday to Mr Macfarlane. (Photograph: Tony Weaver).

## Appeal to save Earl's armour

By Our Arts Correspondent

An appeal for £368,000 to save for the nation an important set of armour belonging to Henry Wriothesley, the third Earl of Southampton, and patron of William Shakespeare, was launched yesterday by Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment.

It was part of the Hever Castle Collection sold in May and went to a private American collector at Sotheby's. On the recommendation of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, Lord Gower, the Minister for the Arts, withheld the armour's export licence for six months.

The suit of armour, originally thought to be Flemish, is now believed to be French and may have been acquired during one of the Earl's visits to France in 1598.

The Armouries at the Tower of London, which is trying to purchase the suit, says it is the only complete sixteenth century French armour in Britain and is of outstanding importance.

Contributions should be sent to The Southampton Appeal, The Armouries, Tower of London, London EC3, with cheques made payable to the Department of the Environment.

## More health regions join jobs cut revolt

By Nicholas Timmins

Two more health authorities have decided to follow Brent in defying the Government's job cuts, and a third has said it will have to take "draconian" measures unless and manpower figures it has been given are changed.

Islington Health Authority in London and the Sheffield Health Authority have both voted not to implement the jobs cuts, although both, unlike Brent, accepted financial cuts imposed after the Chancellor's emergency package in July.

In the case of Islington Health Authority that will mean saving £303,000, with the closure of a 20-bed ward at the Royal Northern Hospital, and the halting of planned expansion in services for the mentally handicapped.

But the authority decided unanimously not to implement its manpower target of cutting 101 jobs.

Mr Brian Harrison, the

## NUJ in pay talks at Financial Times

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Crucial pay talks take place today between the *Financial Times* management and journalists' leaders in an attempt to avoid further disruption at the paper.

A mandatory two-hour meeting of members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) delayed production of yesterday's paper and a further meeting is planned later today.

The paper's present difficulties follow a damaging and prolonged strike over pay by the National Graphical Association (NGA) in the summer, which cost the company an estimated £6m.

Journalists are demanding a flat rate increase of £2,200 a year, which is worth about 12 per cent, and the *Financial Times*, which initially offered 4½ per cent, is now sticking at 5 per cent across the board. The union is expecting an improved offer today.

The NUJ argues that recent

percentage increases of the last two or three years have increased differential levels to an unacceptable degree, and is adamant about a flat rate rise.

The company has indicated that it wanted to reinforce the principle of differentials, and this has proved to be the most contentious issue.

Mr Alan Pike, father of the NUJ chapel at the *Financial Times*, said yesterday that feeling among his members was running high, but that he hoped to avoid confrontation.

The union estimates that there are 13 journalists, as well as the editor and his deputy, earning more than £26,000 a year. There are 65 earning between £13,000 and £16,000 and 17 salaries below £13,000. The average salary is £18,000, and Mr Pike estimates that it would be increased to £20,300 if the union's claim was fulfilled in its entirety.

## Be tolerant, rabbis told

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

Synagogues should tolerate individuals and couples who do not conform to the traditional Jewish idea of marriage and family life, according to a report prepared for the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain.

Unconventional life-styles which merited a "positive response" including homosexual couples, and men and women living together but not married.

## Cleaners lose contract

By Barbara Day

A private contractor hired to clean schools in the London Borough of Merton was dismissed by the council yesterday, only one month after term began.

Two weeks ago, Academy Cleaning Services Ltd had been given a deadline to improve its standard of work or face dismissal.

Merton said a special education sub-committee decided

on Monday night that there was clear evidence that Academy had not been able to carry out its full responsibilities and it was agreed to discontinue its services immediately.

The contract has now been awarded to the Provincial Cleaning Services Group.

Mr Brian Meier, Academy's managing director, said: "Obviously we are very disappointed."

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## Defending the right to duplicate

The constant emergence of action groups, voluntary organizations and campaign bodies is one of the more endearing characteristics of British life. No sooner, for example, is a new illness, ailment or medical abnormality identified, than some group will emerge on the horizon to espouse its afflicted.

Some of these concerned groups perish after the initial burst of enthusiasm. Many more than one a day go on to join the 144,000 bodies in Britain already granted charitable status; the largest number for any nation in the world.

"Many of the people involved have never done anything of this kind before", Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd, chairman of the Patients Association, said. "But they have fire in their bellies and they succeed on the tide of some public indignation and get something off the ground."

"They usually run it from their sitting rooms, disrupting family life if the initiative is successful. But eventually it becomes established. And it is their baby."

Dame Elizabeth admits that the ever growing number of voluntary bodies, many concentrating their efforts in the same field, inevitably leads to confusion, duplication and personal rivalry.

Mr Nicholas Hinton, director of the National Council for Voluntary Organizations, agreed. "Obviously there is a degree of duplication between organizations. But to try to legislate, or in any other way prevent duplication and overlapping, would be very difficult. It is a fairly basic freedom in this country for people who care about X, Y or Z to form an association and get on with it. I don't think anybody would

## Cabinet on satinwood fetches £31,900

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Neo-classical furniture using pretty woods with inlaid patterns and pictures seems to be enjoying a sudden new popularity. Considered fancy when chunky oak was "in", the rich have decided its elegance is desirable, as they did when they commissioned it in the late eighteenth century.

Phillips's price index was demonstrated behind the times yesterday when two London dealers fought for possession of a cabinet estimated to fetch £3,000-£5,000 and drove the price to £31,900. M. Turpin Ltd of Chelsea emerged the victor.

It is a Sheraton cabinet on stand in satinwood with a quercy inlay of urns and foliage and a central sycamore panel incorporating motifs ranging from a basket of flowers, to acorns, a squirrel and a dancing girl, a fussy elegance but just in line with the new taste.

The furniture sale also included an Italian version of the much prized style, a rosewood and marquetry commode with an ebony medallion of classical ruins draped by ribbon-tied cornucopias. It sold for £6,800.

At Sotheby's the collection of books on angling formed by an enthusiastic Midlands fisherman, the late George Scott

Atkinson, proved popular with other anglers. A book of specimen fishing flies, *Brook and River Trout*, by Edmonds and Lee, issued in limited editions of 50 copies in 1916, soared to secure £1,980 (estimate £1,000-£1,200).

At the other end of the scale, a 1749 second edition of R. Brookes's *The Art of Angling*, *Rock and Sea Fishing* in a nineteenth century leather binding could be had for £16.50 (estimate £50-£70).

Some of the prices in the bibliography section went through the roof, most notably a book by a former director of Sotheby's, A. R. A. Hobson's *French and Italian Collections and their Bindings Illustrated from Examples in the Library of R. Abbey* was published in 1953 and estimated to fetch £600-£800. In the event Messrs paid £1,760 for it.

Overseas selling prices: A book on the life of a famous fisherman, the late George Scott Atkinson, proved popular with other anglers. A book of specimen fishing flies, *Brook and River Trout*, by Edmonds and Lee, issued in limited editions of 50 copies in 1916, soared to secure £1,980 (estimate £1,000-£1,200).

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## Revised quality test for goods proposed in new deal for customers

By Peter Evans

Customers should have greater protection against unsatisfactory goods, the Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission said yesterday in a discussion paper.

The present test is whether the goods are of "merchantable quality", which has been used in legislation since 1893. The definition concentrates too much on the goods' fitness for the purpose for which they were bought, the commission believe.

The definition of the quality required by law should be altered so that it also includes: The appearance of the goods, their finish, suitability for immediate use and freedom from minor defects.

Whether the goods were safe. The durability of the goods. The discussion paper is concerned only with contracts made between the buyer and the seller or supplier of goods and not with the legal relationship that exists between the buyer and the manufacturer or wholesaler of goods.

The present law gives the buyer a right to reject the goods and demand his or her money back if the seller fails to supply goods of "merchantable quality". Whether or not the buyer chooses to reject the goods the buyer can also claim damages for any loss which he may have suffered arising from the seller's breach of contract.

Section 14 (6) of the Sale of Goods Act, 1979 says goods are of "merchantable quality" if "they are as fit for the purpose or purposes for which goods of that kind are commonly bought as it is reasonable to expect having regard to any description applied to them, the price (if

relevant) and all the other relevant circumstances."

The term "merchantable quality" was used in the Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act, 1973, and Lord Denning referred to it in *Cehave NV v Bremer Handelsgesellschaft* in 1976 when he said the term was the best that had been devised. But the commissions say that at present the absolute right to reject goods which are not of "merchantable quality" can work in an undesirable way against buyers' interests. If the defects in the goods are fairly minor a court may be tempted to decide that the contract has not been broken rather than to allow the buyer to hand back

the goods and claim all his money back.

There is some evidence that that has been happening. The result is that some buyers may be left with no remedy for minor defects.

The report says that the term "merchantable quality" should be replaced by a neutral one such as "proper quality" or some such formula as "a quality which is acceptable, in all respects, to a reasonable buyer."

The commissions recommended that the buyer should be able to reject goods outright and claim the money back with an exception. That is where the seller can show that the nature and consequences of the breach are slight and that in the circumstances it is reasonable that the buyer should be required to accept the repair or replacement of the goods.

Where such a "cure" was not provided, satisfactorily and promptly the buyer could reject the goods and claim his or her money back. The buyer should in all cases be able to claim damages.

A high proportion of the recommendations of the Law Commission on the sale of goods has been put into law.

If consultations support the view that a change is needed, a Bill is likely to be drafted by parliamentary counsel, instructed by the commissions. It would be up to the Lord Chancellor, a minister of the Department of Trade or even a private member to introduce the Bill in Parliament.

*The Law Commission Working Paper No 85 and Scottish Law Commission Consultative Memorandum No 58: Sale and Supply of Goods (Stationery Office, £3.50).*

### Case of the faulty car

A decision in 1976 of the Inner House of the Court of Session, (Millers of Falkirk v Turpie) referred to a new car found on the day after its delivery to have an oil leak in the power-assisted steering system.

It was collected by the dealers and an adjustment was made, but it leaked again the next day. The buyer then refused to pay the balance of the price and rejected it on the ground that it was not of merchantable quality as required by the statutory definition.

The court unanimously upheld the decision of the sheriff that the car complied with the requirement of merchantable quality.

Lord President Emslie said that the dealers were willing and anxious to cure the defect, which was minor.

### Guns 'to kill myself'

By John Withers

## Martin tells jury of paranoia

David Martin described yesterday how he had been driving along the M4 in London when he heard on the radio that that police had shot Stephen Waldorf instead of him.

Mr Martin, appearing in the witness box for the first time, told the jury at the Central Criminal Court that he heard "David Martin had been shot in a police ambush, which was pretty unlikely seeing I was driving along. They are pretty incompetent at the best of times but I couldn't believe they had shot the wrong person."

The jury has been told that Mr Martin was shot in the back on January 14 when police were hunting for Mr Martin, who had escaped from a magistrates' court three weeks before. Two policemen had been charged after the shooting and a wait trial.

Mr Martin, aged 36, of Cranford Place, west London, admitted shooting Police Constable Nicholas Carr and taking part in a bank robbery in which

a security guard was shot in the leg. But he told the court that the policeman was shot by accident during a struggle.

He faces 14 charges, including two of grievous bodily harm, but yesterday denied all of them except for the robbery of £23,000 from Lloyd's Bank and a burglary of photographic equipment after his escape.

Asked about his first arrest in September, 1982, when he was shot by a policeman in the neck, Mr Martin said he thought he might have been entering an ambush as he returned to his flat. He told the court that he was shot without warning as he got out of the lift on the seventh floor. As he turned a corner he bumped into a policeman.

Mr Martin said earlier that day he had collected two pistols from safe boxes and was carrying them at the time he was shot. But he denied the Crown's case that police opened fire only after he had drawn both guns, one from a hangbag and one from a holster.

## Mystery in wake of lone sailor

By Craig Seton

Mr Tom McNally, a Lancashire businessman attempting to cross the Atlantic in a yacht only 6ft 10 in long, is apparently refusing to give up his lone voyage after being found, in a search involving three nations without food and water 920 miles off Land's End.

An estimated £200,000 is believed to have been spent in an RAF operation to find Mr McNally in his boat, Big C. Two Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft from Kinloss, Scotland, took part in the search which also involved two US long-range aircraft and a Soviet trawler, which Mr McNally eventually boarded yesterday.

He was given a meal, but it appears he rejected an appeal by the Soviet captain for him to give up his journey, then in its 45th day, from Newfoundland.

Latest information is that he resumed the journey after the Soviet ship gave him a sextant to replace lost navigation equipment.

Mr McNally's wife, Cathy, said she supported her husband in his quest. She said he could reach Falmouth, in Cornwall, in two weeks.

## Food consumption 'near peak in rich countries'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The populations of rich industrialized nations have nearly reached the limit of their food consumption in terms of calories, a conference in London was told yesterday. That assessment was given by M Gerard Viatte, deputy director of food and agriculture in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Mr Viatte said that while diets would continue to change, the low population growth forecast for most OECD regions, North America, Western Europe, Australasia and Japan, precluded any significant increase in total consumption. Despite their pressing needs, the developing countries did not offer the prospect of a stable and reliable market for European and North American food and animal feed surpluses, he said.

Within OECD countries the share of animal products in food consumption, which had increased significantly in the past 20 years, was tending to stabilize. Meat's share rose from 13 to 18 per cent between 1955 and 1980, reaching a plateau of about 22 per cent in the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

In four countries meat formed less than 15 per cent of the national diet: Japan, Portugal, Norway and Italy, where a large amount of fish is eaten. He told the conference, organized by the American Soybean Association, that the increase in poultry consumption was not likely to continue because of cost.

There was a touch of the Falklands spirit in Knightsbridge, West London, yesterday, with Harrods festooned in Union flags and Princess Anne opening a three-week British promotion in the store's newly extended food halls.

The buyers from Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United States, invited by the Food from Britain organization, could hardly fail to conclude that at least Britain's top people eat well.

Ms Helen Fortington, a buyer for a French multiple chain, said that it was often difficult to find firms interested in importing British hams, cakes, biscuits and confectionery sold well, but she saw little prospect for meat, fruit and vegetables.



Big day for ballet: Miss Sulamith Messerer (left), Sir Anton Dolin and Svetlana Beriosova announcing a Great Ballet Gala yesterday. The gala, in aid of the Dancer's Trust, at the London Coliseum on November 13 (Photograph: Martin Mayer)

## Taxes may subsidize private hospital

By Nicholas Timmins

A new private hospital in Leeds is hoping to benefit from a new indirect subsidy from the taxpayer of several hundred thousand pounds at a time when National Health Service budgets are being cut by £140m.

The directors of the Caldaire Independent Hospital company, which is building a £3.1m thirty-six bed hospital at Metley, near Leeds, believe the hospital, due to open in December next year, will qualify under the Government's new Business Expansion Scheme.

That would allow individuals who buy shares in the hospital to claim tax relief at their highest rate - up to 75 per cent - on the shares they buy.

While most of the finance for the hospital is being raised in the city, £25,000 shares at £1.25 are being offered to subscribers. If those who bought the shares paid tax at an average rate of 50 per cent, the individuals concerned would receive about £320,000 in tax relief, while the hospital would receive more than £65,000 in investment.

Mr Richard Clemons, chairman of Caldaire Independent Hospital, said that for someone paying tax at 50 per cent, it

meant the cost of their investment was halved.

The benefit to the company was indirect, he said. "It provides more incentive for individuals to subscribe than there would be otherwise, and it makes it easier to raise the money." He would be "very surprised" if other private hospital schemes did not follow suit.

The scheme is likely to attract criticism from those opposed to the Government's health service cuts, who will argue that the Government is cutting the amount of taxpayers' money spent on the health service while providing tax relief to encourage investment on private hospitals.

Mr John Armstrong of the merchant bankers Granville and Company, who are financial advisers to the project, said the hospital had not yet been formally accepted by the Inland Revenue as qualifying under the Business Expansion Scheme, but added: "Our lawyers and accountants have advised that it is a scheme which will qualify."

● The Rosie maternity hospital at Cambridge, built at a cost of £6m, takes its first patients today after a week-long delay caused by contamination in the piped medical gas system.

## Breathing gear demanded by non-smoker

A British Telecom engineer who refused to work in premises where smoking was permitted unless he was supplied with a breathing apparatus was dismissed last December.

In a written judgment rejecting Mr Conar Macch's appeal against dismissal, an industrial tribunal in Glasgow ruled yesterday that the decision was fair.

The buyers from Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United States, invited by the Food from Britain organization, could hardly fail to conclude that at least Britain's top people eat well.

Ms Helen Fortington, a buyer for a French multiple chain, said that it was often difficult to find firms interested in importing British hams, cakes, biscuits and confectionery sold well, but she saw little prospect for meat, fruit and vegetables.

The tribunal ruled: "The test room was correctly categorised as a place where smoking was permissible."

## Industry fights EEC noise restrictions

By Patricia Clough

British industry is resisting an EEC proposal to make employees keep noise at the workplace below an average of 85 decibels over eight hours.

The employers maintain the maximum should be 90 decibels, roughly equivalent to the sound of a train arriving at an underground station, while 85 is the level of average street traffic.

They say that the proposal would cost British industry £1,000m and would spare fewer people from deafness than the EEC estimates.

The proposed directive by the EEC Commission would follow regulations on lead and asbestos. It says that where it is "not reasonably practical" to reduce

## Solicitor who killed boy in crash jailed

By Patricia Clough

A solicitor who was driving home drunk from a champagne party near Harrogate, Yorkshire, when he knocked a paperboy off his bicycle and killed him was jailed yesterday for a year with nine months suspended.

William Gradwell, aged 36, of Pannal Harrogate, drove his car into Mark Lomas, aged 15, flinging the boy into the air and on to the car roof. Leeds Crown Court was told. The boy died instantly, but Gradwell, who has two children, drove off, Mr Anthony Purnell, for the prosecution, said.

Police tests showed that the solicitor, who pleaded guilty to causing death by reckless driving, had drunk the equivalent of 14 whiskies.

Gradwell was jailed yesterday and banned from driving for three years.

## Muslim appeal

The Muslim Parents' Association in Bradford has appealed to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, against Bradford City Council's refusal last month to sell five schools as a first step towards Muslim-aided schools.

Police in Hertfordshire launched a search yesterday for a man who raped a girl, aged 13, as she walked across Barnards Heath, Harpenden Road, St Albans, on Monday.

Police tests showed that the solicitor, who pleaded guilty to causing death by reckless driving, had drunk the equivalent of 14 whiskies.

Gradwell was jailed yesterday and banned from driving for three years.

The Irish Republic's first motorway a five-mile stretch in Kildare costing £12m, was opened yesterday. It bypasses the bottleneck of Naas on the route from Dublin to Cork and Limerick.

## Resorts to offer bargain family seaside holidays

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Bargain family holidays at the British seaside, with a big national promotional campaign to match that of the foreign package holidays, is the latest idea to halt the decline of the traditional holiday.

The plan, with the offer of substantial cash backing, was presented yesterday by Mr Michael Montague, chairman of the English Tourist Board.

If funding from local authorities, Hotels and guest houses, and the Board is sufficient, a television advertising campaign early in the new year during the Christmas season holidays is a possibility.

The move came as evidence mounted of a big increase in spending on holidays in Britain.

In the first six months of this year spending on English holidays rose 24 per cent, according to the ETB. Tourist revenue, which includes business travel, rose by 27 per cent. In Britain, holiday spending was up 23 per cent higher and tourist spending rose 22 per cent.

How far this indicates a substantial rise in the number of holiday trips is not yet clear although bigger hotel chains have reported being busier. But with the hot summer not starting until July and August further revenue growth over the whole summer season seems likely.

The 1983 summer season has been an excellent one for the English resorts. But Mr Montague said that places had done poorly. There were indications earlier in the season that parts of the West Country and Wales were doing badly.

If any resort had done poorly it should set up a review quickly, Mr Montague said. "This has been a year when all external factors have been favourable. If this minority has not done well this year then they have some very deep and searching questions to ask themselves, about their future and whether what they offer is what the public wants."

Mr Montague thinks he has identified a strong campaigning line to bring more families back to the English seaside, which could revive resorts' fortunes.

He said at a Blackpool seminar yesterday: "There is no doubt that once a holiday cost has to be multiplied - by the numbers in the family - the more competitive an English seaside holiday becomes. We must exploit this fact."

But the domestic tourism industry will be under pressure in attempting to attract more holidaymakers by a stance of bargain-basement prices. The foreign package-tour companies are bringing down their holiday prices for the second year running, while a strong sterling against holiday destination currencies has made spending money go further, as well as helping the operator to buy foreign hotel rooms more cheaply.

Hotels and guest houses also still needed to pursue a policy of modernization to eliminate shared facilities like bathrooms, Mr Montague said.

The British market last year still accounted for 69 per cent of the holiday nights Britons spent away from home, a 1 per cent drop on 1981. There was a 2 per cent drop on long holidays taken in Britain, also 1 per cent down.

Foreign packages accounted for 37 per cent of the long-holiday market.

### Domestic holidays by Britons, 1982

Type of holidaymaker	%
Professional and managerial	26
Clerical & supervisory	26
Skilled manual	26
Unskilled, pensioners	22
Length of stay	
2 nights	23
4 nights	9
7 nights	5
14 nights	17
Transport used	
Car	75
Coach	7
Coach tour	4
Train	11

Source: British Home Tourism Survey

## 'Jail break' by charity volunteers

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The governor of Winchester Prison, Mr M V Roberts, is to give a send-off to a jail break next Sunday. Dressed in traditional convict's garb, with a ball and chain round their ankles, the escapees, volunteers from outside the prison, have to try to get as far as they can from the prison in 12 hours.

They are not allowed to spend money on transport, but they are being sponsored to raise money for the British Leprosy Relief Organisation as part of a "prison week" aimed at reducing the barriers between the jail and the community.

Organized by staff at the prison and the Prison Reform Trust, the week begins with the annual legal service at Winchester Cathedral attended by Crown Court judges.

## Sinclair joins £1m league

By Our Labour Reporter

Sir, Clive Sinclair, the much-acclaimed "electronics wizard" at the head of Sinclair Research has joined the million-a-year set.

Sir Clive awarded himself a £1m bonus in the financial year to March, 1982 to top up a salary of £12,767.

That constitutes an increase of more than 300 per cent on the £242,500 which he received in remuneration from his company the year before. The new figure also comfortably outstrips the £399,661 which was the total paid to his 26 employees in the same year.

Sir Clive has joined other notable figures in the millionaire class: Mr David Sainsbury (Sainsbury's) £4,763,873; Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland (Lorhob) £4,256,547; Mr John Sainsbury (Sainsbury's) £1,716,105; Mr Timothy Sainsbury (Sainsbury's) £1,552,034; Mr Philip Harris (Harris Queensway) £1,102,379.

The intelligence is contained in a new piece of research by the Labour Research Department which speaks of "pay explosion" for a small number of senior company directors between 1979 and 1982.

Between those years the researchers estimate that inflation rose by 49 per cent, average earnings of male manual workers by 43 per cent and the pay of the top 28 directors, who were all paid more than £250,000 in 1982, by 93 per cent.

The researchers also found that six directors in Britain are receiving £250,000 a year or more. They are: Mr Richard Giordano (BOC) £579,000; Mr Patrick Sergeant (Associated Newspapers) £302,596; Mr Richard Reich (BOC) £300,000; Mr Gerald Rosson (Heron Group) £288,000; Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland (Lorhob) £266,034; Mr Donald Craig (BOC) £230,000.

A seventh, Mr Russell Evans of the Rank Organisation was included incorrectly.

## Child road accident toll rises

Casualties from road accidents in the second quarter of 1983 are believed to be 7 per cent lower than for the same period last year, when it was not compulsory to wear seat belts.

But the estimated figures released yesterday by the Department of Transport also show a marked increase in the number of accidents involving children. Casualties among child pedestrians are up by 8 per cent and those among child cyclists are up by 3 per cent. Altogether 104 child pedestrians died as a result of road accidents. That figure represents a 30 per cent increase.

Generally deaths were down by 9 per cent and serious injuries down by 13 per cent, despite a 5 per cent increase in total traffic over the year.

## Abbey to aid action areas

The Abbey National, one of the top five building societies, yesterday cut the mortgage rate it charges new borrowers in Housing Action Areas by 1 per cent to 10.25 per cent. The move follows Monday's cut in interest rates by the banks but does not herald an early cut in mortgage rates for ordinary borrowers.

New borrowers in 226 action areas stand to benefit from the Abbey's decision.

The society says that it has allocated an extra £45m to the action areas, and wants the lower mortgage rate to be matched by increased improvement grants from local authorities.

## Fever victim dies

Mr Neville Scott, aged 54, of Kennilworth, who was admitted to Warwick Hospital with fever three weeks ago, has died of Legionnaires' disease. The area health authority decided no precautions were necessary because Mr Scott contracted the disease in Minorca.

## Fan remanded

Stephen Lunn, aged 24, a Huddersfield Town supporter, was remanded in custody for a week by Huddersfield magistrates yesterday, charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Richard Aldridge, a Chelsea supporter, who died after a match on Saturday.

## Nostalgia train

An eight-coach Pullman train carrying 110 passengers left Victoria station, London, yesterday to commemorate the centenary of the Venice Simplon Orient Express, which ended the service to Istanbul in 1977.

## Stubble 'burden'

Kent County Council yesterday called on the Government to outlaw stubble burning because of the burden on the fire service and the cost to ratepayers. In August Kent firemen tackled 139 fires caused by stubble burning.

## Peak fitness

Mr Adrian Crane, aged 28, from Cockermouth, Cumbria, who ran the length of the Himalayas with his brother Richard, aged 29, earlier this year, is to join an expedition to climb Everest next year.

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LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

Council house sales

Health cuts anger

Foot's message of hope

Commentary

Foot says farewell, and speaks of the shame of Conservative victory

Geoffrey Smith

Throughout this conference both Mr Kinnoch and Mr Hattersley have been preparing to lead Labour back towards the centre of British politics. That is the significance of all talk about listening to the British public so as to avoid another catastrophic electoral defeat. Pragmatism is to be given priority over doctrinal purity. But how much freedom of manoeuvre does the new leadership have?

Had the hard left won a majority on the new National Executive Committee, as some had feared a little while ago, Mr Kinnoch would have found himself frustrated at every step. Mr Benn would have been restored to the chairmanship of the home policy sub-committee with all the scope that post-war Labour has offered to embarras the leadership. The party organization would have been controlled by a body that did not share Mr Kinnoch's basic objective. Every attempt to modify policy would have been made far more difficult.

On the new NEC there are three groups: the centre-right, the soft left and the hard left, with the balance of power being held by the soft left. This will suit Mr Kinnoch well enough, because it is the section of the party from which he comes and which will respond most readily to his guidance. But while it is right to think of three distinct groups, it would be misleading to speak of them as if they were monolithic, with every member always voting with the same group on every issue.

Divisions liable to break down

They are most likely to vote in clearly defined categories on symbolic issues and questions of organization and party discipline. But the next divisions between right, soft left and hard left are liable to break down on matters of policy.

That was demonstrated clearly enough in the muddled proceedings over the defence resolutions in the NEC on Sunday. Although the hard left was in just as much of a minority on the old NEC as the new one, Mr Kinnoch should in theory have found it just as easy to command a majority, he was nonetheless unable to persuade the committee to recommend the remission of a rigidly unilateralist motion.

This was an example of what is just as liable to happen in the coming year on policy issues if there is not determined and astute leadership. The new leaders have every right to be pleased with the elections in the NEC because something has not gone wrong which could have gone wrong.

But it does not follow that he will automatically have a majority behind him whenever he wishes to adjust existing policy so as to make it more palatable to the electorate. There are four areas of policy where adjustment is principally required: the sale of council houses, withdrawal from the European Community, unilateral nuclear disarmament, and economic strategy.

Dilemma on economic policy

It seemed clear from the mood of the conference yesterday that the party is moving towards dropping its opposition to the sale of council houses. Mr Kinnoch has already indicated that he wants to give up the commitment to outright withdrawal from the EEC, and I do not believe that he will have too much difficulty in persuading a majority of the party to follow him. The most delicate issues are likely to be defence and economic policy in all its ramifications.

Defence is to be debated this morning, so it will be better to leave comment on that to another occasion. Economic policy presents a problem because the electorate was very reasonably unconcerned with Labour's clear idea as to how it would find the money for its ambitious proposals. So long as Labour fails to correct that weakness it will not look like a credible alternative government.

Yet it can solve this problem only by proposing tax increases that will be unacceptable to the country, or by renouncing spending plans that are dear to the hearts of important sections of the party. That illustrates Mr Kinnoch's general dilemma: how to retain the support of the party while moving it to a position where it can hope to recover the confidence of the country.

It will be a long and difficult task. The first few days at Brighton have made it look slightly less daunting. But then there is the defence debate today.

Labour gave a hero's farewell to Mr Michael Foot, its outgoing leader, when he concluded his speech to the Labour Party Conference in Brighton yesterday with the message of hope which he said they should send forth to the people of Britain and the outside world - a stricken country and a frightened world. The message was one of democratic socialism seeking to revive Britain and giving a proper lead in building a peaceful world. That new hope would take Labour to victory.

For nearly five minutes delegates gave a standing ovation to Mr Foot, leader of the party since 1980, former minister and, in his last speech, a member of the party executive since 1972.

There was cheering as Mr Foot was joined by his wife, Jill, and the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow" before Mr Foot was allowed to receive his exit pass.

The leader of the opposition has some scathing things to say about Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Dr David Owen and Fleet Street. He contended that Labour's case was proven. He did not say that Labour's manifesto for the June election was either word perfect or ideal perfect but he was not in favour of casting it aside.

Congratulating his successor, Mr Foot said that Mr Neil Kinnoch, who takes over the leadership officially on Friday, had the spirit of Nye Bevan within him.

Mr Foot began by paying tribute to the chairman of the conference, Mr Sam McCuskie, the party's general secretary, Mr James Morrison, and the outgoing deputy leader, Mr Denis Healey.

"Sometimes it is suggested in some quarters that Denis and I have not always seen eye to eye on every subject. I am not sure whether this is intended as a compliment or a criticism. However, I can assure you that during this time Denis has given me wonderful support and encouragement, and I am deeply grateful to him."

Mr Foot said that he was deeply ashamed that Labour has allowed the fortunes of Britain to rest with such a Government as there was in Britain at present.

"All of us have assembled here with a determination to carry out a proper review in the interests of the British people."

He repudiated any suggestion that the defeat was due to the failure of the parliamentary system or to its functions under the party's constitution to do everything they could to win.

"None of us can forget the depths of the wounds that happened in industry as a consequence of the individual people in that defeat."

At the SDP conference in Salford, Dr David Owen had given what was described as an analysis of Britain's present economic situation. He said that the competitive system, the social market economy, the Sir Keith Joseph, Thatcher, Nigel Lawson economy.

"He said they must apply it more stringently in the future. Dr Owen said that this competitive system as it was a great success. He even talked as if there were a bandwagon in that direction, and of course if there is a bandwagon moving he wants to be on it."

"It is a strange moment for anyone to be paying a tribute to the competitive system. The market economy had shown itself in the last few years less successful in providing a stable expanding economy than at any time in this century. It was less able to provide jobs and keep people above the poverty line than at any time for generations."

Mr Foot said that all his sympathies were for Mr David Steel, the leader of the Liberal Party. "I have any advice to him I say he should not really be concerned with any of the prescriptions offered him by the doctor. That doctor has not practised any real medicine for years. All he wants to do is take over the practice."

During the election and at other periods the British people got a distorted and completely jaundiced picture of what was really happening. He said: "I am not one of those who believe you can blame the election defeat solely on the media or newspapers."

"I say, as much as a journalist as I am not lumping the whole of the media together or anything so foolish because there are real differences to be drawn between them, the debasement of journalism is worse in Fleet Street today than at any time I can recall (applause)."

"I do not say it is all due to the arrival of Mr Murdoch in Britain, although I think he bears his fair share (applause) - to say that would not be fair to the others, would it (laughter). I do not want to be our old friend. The Daily Mail, the former's gazette (applause)."

He added: "I am a paid-up member of the National Union of Journalists and proud of my union. The bingo competition now going on in Fleet Street will kill decent journalism if it is not put a stop to it (applause). Every decent journalist in this country knows the truth of what I am saying. I am in favour of protecting the value and credit of our newspapers because I believe they are essential to the maintenance of our general freedom."

"However, as a general rule if you want to discover it in Fleet Street - I am not talking about the provincial press. They have higher standards as a whole - the ones who have got down lowest in the gutter are almost always those who have got either editor or owner emboldened or knighted by the Prime Minister."

Reports from Alan Wood, Robert Morgan, John Winder, Amanda Haigh, and Stephen Goodwin

One of the ways of correcting the situation was for the Labour movement to have its own newspaper, and another was to ensure journalists stuck to the code of conduct of the NUJ, which would make Fleet Street a healthier place (applause).

Now the election was over, and in spite of the efforts of some of the newspapers, the debate they had tried to suppress during the election was breaking out - wherever nurses, teachers, civil servants, public authorities met. The truth about the election was now becoming more evident. It was even creeping into some of the newspapers he had referred to.

A couple of years ago *The Times* referred to the debate held at the last Labour conference just after the publication of the Think Tank report.

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Mr Thatcher now tried to give the impression that the British Government had been in favour of disarmament and arms control like the Americans.

They in the Labour Party condemned the Soviet action in shooting down the Korean airliner. They also condemned the reaction to that event because some men and women all over the planet, when they saw what happened after that accident, would know how combustible were the nuclear weapons piled higher and higher. Some men and women believed that intelligent conversations should take place between the super powers.

Sometimes they behaved like super idiots, and nations like Britain, with independent power and judgment, should have offered cool advice and judgment instead of piling faggots on the flames.

What Mrs Thatcher said was palpable falsehood. It was not the case that the British and American Governments offered proposals for arms control. That had been happening over the last five years.

IFM Mitterand and President de Gaulle had been asked, as Mrs Thatcher was, if cruise could be stationed in their country, they would have given a clear answer.

Labour was opposed to the cruise and Pershing programme because the chances of future arms agreements would be indefinitely reduced.

Labour should use all its strength in Europe and across the world to try and stop the hideous nuclear arms race.

Mr John Edwards, of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, said that Mr Foot had handled the cuts with all the dexterity of an arthritic rhinoceros. He had been bounced into the cuts by the Treasury. He had claimed that the cuts would only affect administrative staff, but the London authorities employed doctors and nurses would have to be sacked.

Mr Fowler had been caught out in every lie he had told about the cuts. Even some of his most insistent friends were beginning to desert him and *The Sun* newspaper said the policy was going in the wrong direction.

Dr Caroline Rogers, of Caeprilly, a junior hospital doctor, said that for the first time in the history of the service doctors and nurses were facing direct action against their jobs, a situation the ancillary workers had faced since Mrs Thatcher was elected.

Mr Jack Ashley, MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, said the Conservatives only pretended to support the health service.

Mr Harry Bwling, MP for Falkirk East and an Opposition spokesman on health in Scotland, said that for every bed created in the private sector one would be closed in the NHS. The fight to safeguard the NHS was about patient care. Jobs were important but Labour would not win it on the argument of jobs.

"We will win only on the argument of patient care." Replying to the debate on behalf of the NEC, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, MP for Crewe and Nantwich and the Opposition spokesman on health service, pledged that the Labour Party would lead a campaign now to protect the NHS.

She said that there were more than 770,000 people waiting for NHS treatment, the longest waiting list since the creation of the service. There were something like 2,000 doctors on the dole. Junior doctors were working up to 80 hours a week. There were 8,800 nurses on the dole. Hospitals were desperately in need of those skills.

Delegates carried a resolution stating that the conference declared that the Labour Party would not support health and the National Health Service in the forefront of its campaign against the Government and would further develop the party's policies to prevent illness, to create a healthy Britain and to expand the NHS.

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Anger over attack on the NHS

The Government's proposed cuts in the health service and the handling of those cuts by Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State, came in for severe criticism during a debate on the health service.

Mr Tom Sawyer, of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPPE), opening the debate, said the Government's promises to maintain the service had been destroyed in an avalanche of cuts, cash limits and privatization. The Government's policies turned out to be a prescription for the doctors would not sign, chemists would not dispense and people would not accept.

The Prime Minister would never know what it was like to be on a waiting list. Her family would never know the misery of having a child waiting for a necessary operation, or an elderly relative anxious and in pain waiting for a letter of admission to hospital.

The Government said the service was safe, in their hands, but they were selling parts off behind people's backs. Privatization of services was done in the name of efficiency, but it had meant the big bang was to hit the Stock Exchange for 10 years.

Mr Paddy Backway, Chichester, said two kidney patients turned away from Guy's Hospital recently have since died. The Tories were getting away with murder. If the Labour Party was to maintain and expand the health service it would have to fight every bit as hard as it had set up the service in the first place.

Mr Hector McKendry, of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, said that one of the few crumbs of comfort was the blundering and incompetent way that Mr Fowler had handled the cuts. He had been bounced into the cuts by the Treasury. He had claimed that the cuts would only affect administrative staff, but the London authorities employed doctors and nurses would have to be sacked.

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New NEC likely to be fully loyal

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Brighton

The trade unions were confident last night that Labour's new national executive committee would deliver effective support for the Kinnoch-Hattersley party leadership.

There was considerable horse-trading for votes among the unions and the NEC elections went "exactly as we planned it", Mr Clive Justice, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said.

In a past designed to produce a politically balanced executive, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the General and Municipal Workers Union agreed to vote for mutually acceptable candidates irrespective of headline left-wing and right-wing "stances".

Mr Ken Clark, a moderate and Mr Sydney Tierney, the "soft left" won seats under that arrangement.

After the results were declared, Mr Mervyn Davies, general secretary of the TGWU, said: "I think it is a very good result. It is a very balanced executive and it will work very well. I think I think it will be very satisfactory."

Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said: "I think we will have a responsible NEC. What we want these people to do now is rally round the leadership and not have the hassle and vilification we have had in the past."

It was "all in all" an acceptable result, he added. The moderates had gained seats two years ago, but have lost only two this year, despite intense efforts by the "hard left" to reestablish their supremacy. "I feel that this could be a responsible NEC. Subsequent events will prove whether it is or not."

Mr Clive Justice agreed: "I think this will give Neil Kinnoch a sensible left-centrist majority for sensible policies. It is exactly the way we planned it."

Estimates of the true political breakdown of the executive vary considerably, depending upon who is defining what is left. Moderate union sources suggest that the old centre-right grouping, the "soft left" supporters of Mr Kinnoch, can muster a small but workable majority on most policy matters.

That "loyalty" will be severely tested, however, on the crucial issue of defence. The left is still claiming that it can carry the day on a fundamentalist policy of unilateralism rather than the more flexible approach favoured by Mr Kinnoch.

Mr William Sims, the steelworkers' leader, said: "We do not want any extremism in the new NEC. We want it to follow the sort of policies that are now being outlined by Mr Kinnoch. The policies of a thinking Labour Party that looks to the electorate and asks what they want from a Labour Government."

The leaders of the two main rail unions pledged themselves "at the conference to fight together to save the British Rail network from further cuts."

Mr James Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR), moving a resolution, said that the unions would fight together to ensure that the railway network, since cuts of the size envisaged would have devastating consequences.

The second, as well as condemning the Searle Report, called on the next Labour government to restore cuts in spending on the railways and to proceed with the proper programme of investment in transport.

Hattersley-Hattersley and one constituency agreed with its MP on Kinnoch-Duffy Davies.

The remaining three MPs, who were not recorded as having cast a vote, were Mr Robert Brown, Newcastle upon Tyne North; Mr Eric Deakin, Walsingham; and Mr William Hamilton, Five Cent.

The following constituency parties voted for Mr Eric Heffer in the leadership election: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Devon, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, London, Merseyside, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Tyneside, Warwickshire, West Midlands, West Yorkshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire, and Zetland.

The following constituency parties voted for Mr Roy Hattersley in the leadership election: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Devon, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, London, Merseyside, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Tyneside, Warwickshire, West Midlands, West Yorkshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire, and Zetland.

No constituency party voted for Mr Peter Shore in the leadership election. One constituency, Nuneaton, abstained. The rest voted for Mr Kinnoch.

The executive accepted without any question the Tooting and Sheffield, Hillsborough, resolutions. He and the executive understood the views expressed in the Liverpool, West Kirby motion. Most of it they supported, but they believed in a united campaign, and if they accepted that motion in its present context it could only be put into operation if there was a Labour government that could meet the money that would be required. It could not be made at the present moment precisely because there was a Conservative government. Therefore the executive recommended rejection.

The executive statement and the Tooting resolution were agreed unanimously. The Sheffield resolution was agreed overwhelmingly, and the Liverpool resolution was lost.

Party may back down on housing

The Labour Party paved the way to revising its opposition towards the sale of council houses when it threw out a motion calling for the ending of the sales of council houses.

The motion also called for the building of a million homes a year, and the veteran Mr Frank Allen, former MP for Salford East, making his farewell speech as a member of the Party's executive, said that to talk of that would make the party incredible. It was an impossible demand.

Mr Allen, who said he had been a member of the party since 1945, was given a standing ovation by delegates after he said the less they spent on arms the more they could house.

He succeeded in persuading the building workers' union, the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians to rescind its resolution because it was too hard on detail but undertook that immediately after the conference, the national executive would undertake wide consideration of policy on rented and private housing.

Instead of housing owner-occupiers they should restore the subject to council tenants, thus giving equality of terms to both. "We are not against owner-occupation," he said.

Mr Charles Kelly, Uxeth opening the debate, moved a compromise motion to end the Conservative housing policy and reaffirming the right to a decent home at a reasonable cost.

The motion reaffirmed the view that the present right to buy council houses was diminishing the best of local housing stock and creating cruel hardship for those seeking public rented accommodation but added that the party's policy of opposition to council house sales lost its value support in both the 1979 and 1983 general elections particularly insofar as the policy in 1983 was open to the charge of misrepresentation by our opponents.

The motion also called for the replacement of the housing scheme with a fair system based on need.

Mr Kelly said that as constructing companies stepped up sales drives, there was scepticism about whether council rents had doubled, as it seemed set to double again during the second period of office of the present government.

The motion had grown up, that because Labour was opposed to the right-to-buy provisions it was opposed to owner occupation, or, that was clearly a misrepresentation, or, that the party's policy should reaffirm that home owners and tenants alike were entitled to decent housing standards.

In the motion they were not calling for an about-face on the right-to-buy issue and were saying explicitly that sales had compounded the difficulties of those on council waiting lists. The next Labour government would have a hard task to build up the stock of council houses. They must make it mandatory for councils to replace houses which they sold.

Miss Celia Lee, Lewisham East, said they had lost the election because of housing problems and 8,000 votes which should have gone to Labour had gone to Miss Polly Toynbee of the Alliance. They should go into the next election with a viable proposal, which would descend roof over every head with a job.

Miss Anne Wilkinson, Birkenhead, moved a compromise motion calling for a campaign against cuts in housing and for reduced council rents, no rate increases, ending sales of council houses, to build a million homes a year, expand direct labour organisations, and having a housing, banks and financial institutions to ensure interest-free loans and a ready money supply, and for recognition of tenant's organisations negotiating bodies on housing and housing finance issues.

She said that their policy had been to oppose council house sales, but it was being said that they had lost votes because of that and should rethink their policy. They had lost votes because they had allowed that policy to be misunderstood and misconstrued. It was not the policy which had lost votes, but inability to explain it and convince people of its validity.

The Conservatives were ensuring that people had to buy council houses because it was cheaper to buy than to rent, but unemployed workers having difficulty in paying rent and could not get the money for a mortgage.

Mr Noel Pheasant, Oldham West, said the party must reaffirm its commitment to those who wanted the right to rent.

Mr Allan Roberts, MP for Bootle, said that the sale of council housing would not be an issue at the next election by which time they would have had enforced sales for nine years. Instead of arguing about it they should consider the consequences and the crisis the sales were causing.

"We shall have ghetto welfare on the American model with the best houses sold off, growing waiting lists, increasing homelessness and housing stock deteriorating beyond repair, with slums unimproved and un demolished." They should help all to own their own homes if they wanted, or to rent homes if they wanted, at prices they could afford.

Mr Neil Liveridge, Elmst, opposed the Birkenhead motion. He said he had spent hours convincing people who wanted to buy their council houses that they should vote Labour. Their housing policy must be based on liberation and egalitarianism. The next Labour government must build sufficient houses to eradicate waiting lists. They should expand the building industry and let people buy if they wanted to.

"Property ownership is one of the best defences of working people against governments like the one we are saddled with now. If we are really the party of the people, we must seek to fulfil their hopes and aspirations. If not, we are not and do not exist, and do not deserve to exist."

The motion was carried by 100 votes to 10. The Sheffield resolution was agreed overwhelmingly, and the Liverpool resolution was lost.

The motion was carried by 100 votes to 10. The Sheffield resolution was agreed overwhelmingly, and the Liverpool resolution was lost.



End of an era: Mr Foot making his final points as leader.



## General strike paralyses Argentina on brink of foreign debt disaster

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

Argentina was brought to a standstill yesterday by the 24-hour general strike called by the two union confederations. Coming hard on the heels of the arrest of Señor Julio González del Solar, the president of the Central Bank, and during a foreign payments crisis, the strike has increased concern at a growing power vacuum just over three weeks before the October 30 general election.

The trade unions had been threatening to call a strike since the middle of last month, but with the top leaders closely associated with the Peronist Party's electoral campaign, they did not want to rock the boat so soon before the polls.

Their hand was finally forced by a spectacular spread of unofficial and partial strikes late last month. Worried that they would lose the initiative, the union leaders pressed for the promised monthly wage increase of 12 per cent to be increased to 17 per cent, and for two earlier bonuses paid by the Government to be consolidated into the basic wage rate.

They also wanted wage increases in the last three months of the year to outstrip inflation by three percentage points.

Despite last minute efforts to avert the strike, the Govern-

### Man in the news

## Mejia gives election pledge

From Christopher Thomas, Guatemala City

General Oscar Mejia Victores, who was compelled by fellow officers against his will to assume power in Guatemala in a palace coup two months ago, pledged in his first interview in the ornate presidential residence to pave the way for civilian rule by 1985.

The portly general, who is 53, unsmiling, short, a heavy smoker, said that he would then retire altogether from the military. "It has been a long time, a long career. It has been enough", he declared.

But the question being asked by Guatemalan politicians is whether the general will last long enough for elections to be held. It is feared that a military successor might not be so committed.

General Mejia said that there would be an election to a constituent assembly next July. It would take eight or nine months to produce a constitution and by September, 1985 the country ought to be ready for government by an elected civilian president.

But, he indicated, if the constituent assembly moved fast enough civilian rule could conceivably occur in 1984, a scenario scoffed at by diplomatic observers. It is widely felt that important sectors of the Army are jealous of their power; if the general tries to move too quickly he will be ousted.

The overriding impression is that Guatemala, a critically important country in US strategy in Central America, is without decisive leadership. Washington is anxious to find a politically acceptable argument for the resumption of military aid, which President Carter suspended in 1977 because of human rights violations.

That would help to establish a secure environment and also give the US some leverage on the regime to move towards free elections.

According to a wide range of politicians and diplomats interviewed in Guatemala City, there have been substantial improvements, although there are still abuses. Serious propaganda efforts are being conducted by the regime to persuade an estimated 10,000 Guatemalan refugees in southern Mexico to return home.

"They have nothing to fear", a senior army officer said. "Things have changed. The guerrillas have been beaten back. The people can come safely home."

General Mejia abruptly dismissed claims by Senator Edward Kennedy and other leading US Congressmen that the Reagan administration's Central American policy was leading America into war in the region. "He is talking about an area he does not know very well. I do not think he has ever been in Central America", the general said.

He claimed that substantial progress had been made in defeating left-wing guerrillas in Guatemala. He introduced a 90-day amnesty a week after taking power for guerrillas who wanted to lay down their arms and return to their villages. So far, 10,000 had taken advantage of the offer.



### 'No invasion of Belize'

General Mejia (right) denied that Guatemala might have any intention of invading Belize. "There is no need if there are negotiations", he said. The prevailing view here is that Guatemala is too stretched by its war against the guerrillas to make a decisive move. But if British troops withdrew that would be a different matter. The claim to Belize is as fundamental as Argentina's claims to the Falklands.

## Marcos accepts Reagan rebuff

From David Watts, Manila

President Marcos resigned himself to a vote of no confidence from President Reagan last night, in response to the cancellation of the Lattin's visit to the Philippines.

Dropping the agitated tone of his recent comments, President Marcos contained himself with publishing the contents of recent letters exchanged between the two leaders. President Reagan's letter was in reply to one from Mr Marcos sent on September 29, in which he assured Mr Reagan of the "safety and tranquility" of his forthcoming visit.

He acknowledged the "irresistible force" of the experience which Mrs Nancy Reagan went through at the time of the attempt on the President's life, saying how much he and his wife, Imelda, adored Mrs Reagan.

If it were not possible to make the trip, President Marcos said, he would look forward to reinvigorating the relationship between the two countries at a later date.

President Reagan's reply was delivered by hand by the presidential assistant, Mr Michael Deavers, on Monday. Despite protestations to the contrary, the President clearly indicated that concern for his safety was the overriding reason for the cancellation. "I have always had confidence in your ability to handle things", the President said.

Officially, though, the White



Put out no flags: Philippines government workers packing away banners that were to have decked the streets of Manila for President Reagan's cancelled visit.

House maintained that pressure of congressional business would preclude the visit.

In cancelling the whole of the south-east Asian portion of his tour, President Reagan has avoided the embarrassment that would have resulted from excluding the Philippines only, or from making a visit which was certainly have been turned into a very anti-Marcos protest.

The Americans were plainly shocked by the turnout of some two million people for the

funeral of the assassinated opposition politician, Benigno Aquino; the subsequent rioting in which 10 people died and hundreds were injured; and the continuing unrest against the Government which President Marcos has not yet been able fully to contain, despite 100 arrests.

The leader of the fragmented opposition, Mr Salvador Laurel, had threatened the Government that a million protesters would take to the streets if the visit

went ahead, and that was clearly no idle threat.

In the event, though, the cancellation has drawn a mixed reaction from the opposition, business leaders and private citizens. Predictably, the radical opposition is delighted.

Mr Agapito Aquino, brother of the dead politician, said: "We are very grateful that President Reagan listens to Nancy". He added a warning that President Marcos would now crack down

on the opposition but that said that they were ready for it.

More thoughtful opposition politicians and even some of the business community regretted that the visit had been called off.

A human rights lawyer said: "We have lost a chance to show the world that Reagan's boy has lost his ability to govern. But nonetheless the message is clear. Reagan has cancelled his visit because Marcos is no longer in control."

## Communists recant on Iran TV

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Tehran (Reuters) - Jailed leaders of Iran's outlawed communist Tudeh party have appeared on television to denounce party activities over the past 40 years.

The 19, including Mr Nuredin Kianuri, the Tudeh Secretary-General, have been in prison for between four and eight months awaiting trial, and several had already confessed on television to spying for the Soviet Union.

In a 90-minute programme on Monday night, chaired by Mr Muhammad Ali Amoli, a central committee member, six of them confessed to a long history of attempts to promote Russian interests in Iran, including fomenting dissent in Kurdish areas.

The Tudeh Party, founded in 1941 when Soviet forces occupied northern Iran, worked underground for most of the reign of the late Shah, but came into the open with the Islamic Revolution.

The party backed Ayatollah Khomeini, and when the first leaders were arrested last February, it was the only sizeable non-religious political organization still operating openly.

In May, after Mr Kianuri confessed on television to spying for Moscow, Iranian authorities banned the party and arrested more of its followers. They also expelled 18 Soviet diplomats on charges of interfering in Iran's internal affairs.

Monday night's programme was billed as the first in a series, with others of the 19-member group to speak later. Those who spoke appeared in reasonable health, but their voices were husky and the hands of one, Mr Ali Galavij, trembled as he read a prepared statement about the party's role in inciting Kurdish tribesmen.

Mr Galavij urged Kurdish rebels and young Tudeh supporters in Kurdistan to "stretch out your hands in union and agreement towards this republic and take the hand of the Imam Khomeini and be sure that the republic will heal your pains".

Three of the leaders denied suggestions that they had been tortured in prison. Mr Kianuri, referring to a report published by an exile group in June saying he had been executed, said his confessions had not been made under threat of death.

"As you see I was not executed and I am here among you now... the fact is that I made confessions in my previous interviews only after my full encounter with the realities of our time", he said.

The statements in Monday night's programme were less startling than others broadcast in the past, which dwelt at length on active espionage by Tudeh members and said the party knew of an Iraqi plan to overthrow the Iranian Government in 1980.

There is still no firm date for the trial of jailed Tudeh members, including Captain Bahram Aftabi, a former Iranian Navy commander.

## UN chief's Cyprus initiative founders as mood hardens

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

After briefly raising expectations for a Cyprus settlement, the latest in a long line of initiatives by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, appears to have foundered, bringing efforts back to square one.

UN officials say the intransigence that has prevented a solution has not lessened, despite signs that a settlement could have sprung from the Cyprus Government's internal struggles.

Disagreement over the UN initiative recently resulted in the resignation of Mr Nicos Rolandis, the Foreign Minister. Both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides are seen to be equally unwilling to compromise. This assessment follows several meetings last week between Señor Pérez de Cuéllar and President Kyprianou of Cyprus and between the Secretary-General and Mr Rauf Denkash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot community.

UN officials say the Turkish Cypriots have rejected out of hand "soundings" about a solution.

The Greek Cypriot side has accepted the Secretary-General's methods but not the substance of his suggestions on power sharing and territorial division. The Greek Cypriot response was in diplomatic language, but was tantamount to rejection.

The Secretary-General is understood to be exasperated by the attitudes of both sides. He had what was described as a violent session last week with Mr Ilker Turkmen, the Turkish Foreign Minister.

Mr Denkash has not made matters easier by announcing over the weekend a proposal for a meeting with Mr Kyprianou, in the knowledge that it would not be accepted.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar is also said to be displeased by the inability of President Kyprianou to break away from the grip of Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, who has given priority to Turkish withdrawal, the way his initiative has become part of Cypriot political intrigue also irks the Secretary-General.

In a speech before the General Assembly on Monday President Kyprianou said a radical change in the attitude of the Turkish side was demanded for there to be any hope for progress.

He said that since Turkey's invasion of the north of the island, attempts has been made to consolidate the division with the settlement of thousands of Turks, the forced expulsion of Greek Cypriots and replacement of the Cypriot currency with the Turkish lira.

Cyprus had agreed to a solution based on a federation of the two communities.



### Kirkpatrick wants Unesco funds cut

The US ambassador to the United Nations, Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick (above), urged Congress yesterday to cut payments to certain UN programmes, but said the total US contribution to the organization's budget should remain stable. (Reuters reports from Washington.)

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) would be an appropriate target for cuts because it was poorly managed and sponsored activities contrary to American principles, she said.

## Bonn seeks reason for death blast

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The West German Army has begun an urgent inquiry into the grenade explosion at a training exercise that left two soldiers dead and wounded 25 spectators, 15 of them severely, including a Christian Democrat MP.

The accident happened on Monday at Münsingen, where 800 civilian and military observers had been invited to watch firing exercises by the Bundeswehr. A mortar grenade exploded only 20ft from a group of spectators seated in a truck. The blast left a crater six feet across. One lieutenant was killed instantly and a second soldier died later in hospital.

Helicopters arrived swiftly at the scene, where the ground was spattered with blood and human flesh, and took the severely wounded to hospitals in Ulm. An emergency operation was carried out on Herr Fritz Wittmann, a Munich MP, whose life yesterday was said to be no longer in danger. Another victim, however, was still on the critical list.

Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, flew to Münsingen, with General Meinhardt Gienz, inspector-general of the Army. Herr Wörner expressed his sympathy and shock at the accident, apparently caused by human error

## Judge starts inquiry on Agca claim

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Mr Sergei Antonov, the Bulgarian airline official alleged to have been involved in the attempt on the Pope's life, in May, 1981, is out of solitary confinement for the first time since his arrest nearly a year ago.

His isolation was ended after Dr Ilario Materla, the investigating judge, decided to open an inquiry into the alleged slander of Mr Antonov by Ali Agca, the Turk who shot at the Pope in the attempted assassination.

Agca told the Italian authorities that Mr Antonov, with members of the Bulgarian Embassy, took part in the plot against the Pope. He also maintained that the Bulgarians had plotted with him to kill Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity.

The formal notice to Agca that an inquiry into slander has been opened against him does not specify what he is supposed to have said or understood, however, that the supposed slander arose from something he said regarding the Walesa case and not that concerning the Pope. Nevertheless, if the charge is proved, Agca's credibility will be seriously called into question.

## Danes facing another dose of austerity

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

At the state opening of the Folketing, the Danish Parliament, yesterday, Mr Poul Schluter, the Conservative Prime Minister, promised another powerful dose of economic austerity, including major cuts in social welfare and partial privatization of the health service.

Unveiling the programme of his 13-month-old Conservative-Liberal-led minority coalition Government, he called for parliamentary support for a five-point growth and modernization plan designed to sustain Denmark's slow recovery.

The programme aims to promote industrial investment, production and competitiveness and provide incentives to raise capital and encourage more shareholding. Taxation reforms

## Travel ban on bishop

Johannesburg (Reuters, AFP) - Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches and an outspoken critic of the country's racial policies, said yesterday that he had again been barred from travelling abroad.

He said an application for permission to attend a meeting in Geneva sponsored by the United Nations and a session of

the Africa-America Institute in the United States was rejected. No reasons were given. "I've lost track of how many times this year they've denied me permission to travel."

The Rev Barry Matthews, aged 37, a British-born Anglican priest, has been given until today to leave South Africa. The government refused to renew his residence permit without saying why.

estimated 100,000 people are homeless after the Army launched an offensive against guerrillas in the north of Kampala earlier this year.

Mr Kirkham was deputy Prisons Commissioner in the 1960s but left after Idi Amin took power. He came back and was reappointed.

## Prisoners freed as Uganda marks independence

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

President Obote of Uganda has ordered the release of 2,100 prisoners and detainees as part of the celebrations on Sunday, mark 21 years of independence.

Many have already been freed from the main prison at Luzira, near Kampala. Most are short-term prisoners, but there are also former members of Idi

Amin's army who surrendered when he was ousted in 1979.

Others were detained in big round-ups of suspected supporters of anti-government guerrilla groups early this year, but were never charged.

At the weekend the main ceremony will be at Kololo airstrip, in Kampala, where

President Obote (then Prime Minister) received the instruments of independence from the Duke of Kent in 1962.

In another development, President Obote has appointed the only Briton in the prisons service, Mr William Kirkham, to supervise relief operations in the Luwero area, where an

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## Red faces in the Kremlin

## Gromyko's UN absence leaves Moscow isolated

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Moscow's decision not to send Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, to the UN General Assembly here seems to have backfired.

Although his absence had the immediate effect of making the United States seem an ungracious host, Russia now finds itself isolated from the intense bilateral activity which precedes every Assembly session.

It means it is excluded from ministerial meetings on a variety of topics, ranging from Afghanistan, to disarmament to Lebanon, and is forced to get information about the session second-hand. Discussions about East-West relations are being held without one of the major players.

The importance and urgency of the meetings depends largely on events in the field, and they can either turn into major strategy sessions or simply an

exchange of ideas. They provide the personal contact which is believed to be invaluable.

The most vigorous area of diplomatic activity this time has been the Middle East where Mr Abdul Hakim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, for example, has had the benefit of direct high-level persuasion from the West, but none from Moscow.

While Mr Gromyko has spared himself the embarrassment of international chastisement over the Korean airliner, he is unable privately to get across the Soviet point on a number of key topics.

Diplomats agree that the initial outrage has dissipated. Mr Gromyko's presence and private assurances could have gone far to alleviate some of the fears harboured by the international community over the

thinking which dominates the Soviet system.

Mr Oleg Troyanovsky, the head of the Soviet delegation, is the Permanent Representative to the UN. He was expected to address the Assembly late yesterday, but it would hardly have the same effect as a statement last week by President Reagan.

The Russian delegation has been enlarged with diplomats who arrived from Moscow earlier this month, but they are specialists brought in to cope with the plenary and committee meetings which will continue until December.

Mr Troyanovsky, like Mr Gromyko in the past, was expected to focus his speech on disarmament, with special emphasis on the Russian proposal to ban anti-satellite weaponry.

## Russia warns Nato against deployment

Moscow (AP) - Russia yesterday warned that the deployment of Nato missiles in Europe would threaten the medium-range arms reduction talks (INF) in Geneva.

Tass, the official news agency, also said Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, gave a "grossly distorted view" of the INF prospects by claiming that deployment would actually change the Soviet view in Geneva.

"The assertions by the US Defence Secretary that the deployment of new American missiles would help solve the problems discussed at the current Geneva talks are an attempt to mislead the public," said Mr Vladimir Bogachev, a Tass military analyst.

"By deploying its missiles, the American side would actually knock the ground from under the talks," he said. Mr Bogachev also repeated two warnings often sounded in recent days: that deployment will not force Soviet concessions at the arms talks and that Moscow's "first and most important" reaction will be to install new missiles of its own, including ones which would threaten "the territory of the USA itself".

Nato plans to deploy 572 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles

in Western Europe, starting in December, unless there is an agreement in Geneva which would cut the Soviet arsenal of 351 European-based SS20s.

As the deployment approaches, Russia has been stepping up its propaganda campaign against the Nato missiles. Some observers believe it is directed mainly at European public opinion, especially in West Germany.

Earlier, Pravda, the Communist Party daily, published an editorial which rejected point-by-point President Reagan's latest arms proposals.

Pravda made it clear the Kremlin is sticking to its primary demands in Geneva: that an agreement include scrapping of the Nato deployment plan and that the 162 British and French missiles be included in any accord. The Nato allies, led by the United States, have rejected both demands.

BRUSSELS: A Top Nato panel meets this week to finalize a review of the role of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe which could lead to big cuts in the present stockpile (Reuters reports).

The high-level group is studying whether Nato still needs all the 6,000 nuclear warheads it has in Western Europe.

## EEC fishing quota talks near deadlock

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

EEC fisheries ministers were heading for deadlock last night after two almost fruitless days of negotiation and bartering over who should have the right to fish herring from the North Sea.

The herring quotas have been in dispute ever since the fisheries were reopened after a six-year ban in June. For want of agreement on the quotas, the complicated Common Fisheries Policy agreed last January after seven difficult years of negotiation is still to be properly carried out.

In the end the ministers rejected an ingenious Commission paper designed to reward countries, like Britain, that police their catch, and to penalize countries, like Denmark, that are suspected of serious over-fishing.

Britain signalled that it was prepared to accept the paper as the basis for negotiations, but other delegations, notably West Germany, Holland and Denmark, said there were too many faults in it. "If other countries want to pull it to bits, we can play that game just as well," a British spokesman said.

It argued that if the countries honoured their quotas there would be plenty of fish for everyone by 1987. Then as the stock grew, there would be extra for countries, particularly Denmark, that need the catch to supply the fertilizer industry.

For conservation reasons the Commission intends to stick to its arguments. It has now recruited the first six inspectors of the 13 it needs to run an inspectorate for the CFP, and they are to start work later this month. The aim is to stamp quickly on countries of over-fishing, to give the CFP credibility.

But the failure to reach agreement on herring quotas means that there is less and less hope of putting the CFP fully into operation this year. It also means that British fishermen are unlikely to agree to be bound by any quotas which may eventually be agreed by ministers, since it is now far too late in the season to start imposing levels which, for some species, have already been reached.

## Harley Street doctor held

Dr Peter Stephan, of Harley Street, said yesterday he was "completely surprised and shocked" that his colleague of 10 years, Dr Brian "Dick" Richards, 52, (right) is being held in Los Angeles for allegedly soliciting his murder.

Speaking at his clinic, Dr Stephan, reported to be a millionaire, confirmed that according to his will Dr Richards would inherit his practice, where they specialize in sexual therapy and treatment of the sexual disease herpes.

"I am completely stunned by this," he said. "If you asked me to name the last person in the world who would want to kill me, it would be Dick."

Dr Stephan said he had last seen his partner before he left for the US on a working holiday on September 15.

Dr Richards was held at



Malibu sheriff's department fall in line of \$500,000 bail after a week-long investigation that began when a man reported that he had been offered money to kill Dr Stephan.

## Quinn release ordered

From Our Correspondent, San Francisco

A judge in San Francisco yesterday ordered the release on October 11 of Mr William Quinn, an alleged former member of the IRA wanted in Britain in connection with the 1975 murder of a London policeman.

Judge Robert Aguilar on Monday overturned an extradition order on the 35-year-old American citizen, ruling that the policeman's killing was committed in the course of a

political uprising.

But the US Attorney's office in San Francisco, acting for the British Government, say that it will take steps to keep Mr Quinn in prison, and will appeal.

Mr John Gibbon, chief assistant US Attorney, said that the order of habeas corpus on Mr Quinn was "ridiculous". The appeal is to go to the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

## Socialists boycott a birthday party

From Diana Goldes, Paris

All the surviving political leaders of the last quarter of a century of France's history were there in the grandiose Salle des Fêtes of the Paris City Hall yesterday for the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Fifth Republic - with the glaring exception of any member of the present Government.

The Socialists had decided to boycott what they saw as a political operation mounted by the right. So the six surviving former prime ministers of the Fifth Republic - M Raymond Barre, M Jacques Chirac, M Pierre Messmer, M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, M Maurice Couve de Murville and M Michel Debré, the one surviving former President, M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and hundreds of their friends and supporters went ahead without them.

In his letter refusing the invitation by M Chirac, leader of the Gaullist RPR party and Mayor of Paris, to attend the celebrations, M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, explained that the Fifth Republic was "born in the midst of controversies which, at the time, divided the country".

Fortunately, the 1981 presidential election had enabled those divisions to be overcome, demonstrating the support of the whole country for the institutions of the Fifth Republic, M Mauroy said. It was therefore all the more important "to avoid any kind of partisan ceremony which might give rise to misunderstanding".

The present Socialist Party has never accepted what it regarded as the illegitimate seizure of power by General De Gaulle in 1958, or the constitution that followed, which was drawn up in cooperation with virtually every political faction at the time, including the main Socialist group, and approved in a referendum by 79 per cent of the people.

Only the Communists, a left-wing Socialist splinter group and a small centre-left party led by M Francois Mitterrand refused to endorse it.

In opposition, the present Socialist Party, founded by M Mitterrand in 1972, was particularly critical of what it believed to be the excessive powers of the President. However, since taking office it has made no attempt to amend the constitution.



M Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris (left), welcoming former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to yesterday's twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations of the Fifth Republic.

"The institutions of the Fifth Republic were not made for me, but they fit me very well", President Mitterrand is reported as saying.

M Lionel Jospin, first secretary of the Socialist Party, said in a television interview earlier this week that the Socialists "had not voted for the constitution, but respect it because it exists. It was made against us, but in the end it has come to serve us in a certain way."

President Mitterrand had a legitimate excuse for missing yesterday's celebrations, as he was tied up with the Franco-African summit in Vitry. But other Socialists did not seek to hide their outright hostility to M Chirac's little show.

"The anniversary of the Fifth Republic cannot be hijacked by the president of the RPR party, who himself refused to celebrate the anniversary of the great French Revolution of 1789", M Pierre

Jones, leader of the Socialist group in the National Assembly, said in reference to M Chirac's refusal to allow the planned 200th anniversary celebration of the revolution to take place in Paris.

"We've got better things to do than take any part in this kind of party political operation", he said.

In their speeches at the ceremony, M Chirac, M Debré and M Giscard were all careful not to make direct reference to the Socialist's absence. But M Chirac had earlier condemned their "unworthy and tactless" action, and M Giscard did not shy away from the taking the opportunity to launch fresh attack on the Socialist Government's record.

"To take unpopular measures, if they are necessary, is one thing," the former President said. "To govern against the profound sentiments of the country is another. The con-

tinuous accumulation of excesses, the threat to a free choice of schools, the lack of clear rules concerning relations between French nationals and foreigners - these are all things which shake three out of four French people. The Government is heading for severe disappointment by ignoring this reality."

M Giscard went on to call for a reform of the constitution to shorten the President's term of office from the present seven years (five years has been suggested); to extend the use of referendums to cover important social issues as well as purely constitutional matters; and to require a majority vote of both houses of Parliament on matters affecting fundamental constitutional principles such as individual rights - at present, the Upper House can be overruled on most issues after a third reading in the Lower House.

Leading article, page 9

## Snipers attack in Beirut as ceasefire body meets

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Sniper fire continued yesterday in several parts of Beirut as efforts to get national reconciliation talks under way remained stalled.

Lebanese Army positions in the west Beirut neighbourhoods of Kaslik and Chatta were hit for the second consecutive day by snipers from the Shia Muslim militias. Sniper fire was also reported in residential sections of the city's southern suburbs.

However, the ceasefire that began on September 26 held overall and the four-man military committee set up to keep fighting in check met for the sixth time.

At the military committee's request, International Red Cross workers travelled to the mountain towns of Ainat and Kaifun to retrieve the bodies of people killed in the three weeks of sectarian fighting that preceded the truce.

The Red Cross team has earlier been prevented by sniper fire from reaching the areas.

In another development yesterday, Mr Robert McFarlane, the special United States Middle East envoy, returned to Beirut after visits to Italy and Israel. He plans talks in

Lebanon to help to secure the ceasefire and to get political leaders to agree on procedures for the national reconciliation conference.

An-Nahar, the independent Beirut newspaper, reported that the first session of the reconciliation meeting would be held tomorrow in Saudi Arabia. The report could not be confirmed.

## Jumblatt in Athens talks

From Mario Mediano, Athens

Mr Walid Jumblatt, the controversial Druze leader, saw Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, last night, but a Greek Government spokesman hastened to make it clear that Mr Papandreu was not acting for the EEC presidency.

Greece would like to play a more active role in peace efforts in Lebanon, but its mine Community partners have discouraged any Greek initiatives. The first time the EEC presidency has not been given a specific Middle East mandate.

This reluctance reflects doubts about Greek impartiality in the matter as a result of Athens's refusal to authorize the use of Greek airports to airlift

The government of President Gemayel has been pressing for Saudi Arabia as the site of the first meeting, which is to bring together Christian, Muslim and Druze leaders for a discussion on the future division of power. Syria has objected to a Saudi Arabian site, preferring the Arab League headquarters in Tunis.

supply for the multinational peace force in Lebanon, and its tendency to treat the present Lebanese Government as just one of the warring factions.

Also, the Greek Government's commitment in favour of Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, has raised questions about its attitude towards Mr Jumblatt's Surjan-backed Druze militia, which is hostile to Mr Arafat.

Mr Jumblatt was spirited away from Athens airport by Greek foreign ministry officials on his arrival from Damascus on Monday. He had a one-hour talk with Mr Karellos Papoulias, the under-secretary for Arab affairs, yesterday.

## Shamir puts off vote on coalition

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister designate, deferred presenting his new Government to Parliament until next week, and yesterday made efforts to accommodate reluctant coalition deputies in order to ensure a majority. He would otherwise risk defeat in a confidence vote this week.

In an eight-hour meeting with deputies of the orthodox Agudat Yisrael party in Jerusalem, Mr Shamir and Cabinet colleagues were reported to have dealt point by point with concession to the religious party, which had been included in the old coalition agreement but which the party claimed had not been implemented.

A participant in the meeting said that the party had received a signed undertaking from Mr Shamir that all outstanding matters would be dealt with.

Six other coalition deputies who had threatened not to vote this week for Mr Shamir's narrow coalition because they favoured a broad national government, indicated yesterday that at least some of them would support the Government next week.

## Harare exodus of whites growing

Harare (AP) - Zimbabwe has had one of its worst months of white emigration since independence, according to figures published yesterday.

In July, the last month recorded, 1,960 people left the country, or 545 more than the previous month. Statistics do not specify the race of emigrants, but immigration officials said that most of them were whites.

The white population, at a peak of 276,000 in the mid-1970s, is now believed to stand at about 140,000. According to official records, 64,249 people have left the country since independence.

Most whites left Rhodesia before independence, during the seven-year war against black guerrillas. At independence, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, pledged a policy of reconciliation between blacks and whites.

But by the end of 1980 Zimbabwe had lost 14,266 emigrants - an average of 1,388 a month. That average increased to 1,711 a month the following year, dropped to 1,495 a month last year and to 1,257 a month in the first nine months of this year.

## Drug ring said to own islands

Atlanta (Reuters) - An American businessman has been charged with leading a drug smuggling operation alleged to have bought five Caribbean islands north of Cuba as staging posts for shipping cocaine and marijuana into the United States.

Tilton Lamar Chester of Cleveland, Georgia, was named on 36 counts in a federal indictment, which also alleges that Lance Eisenberg, a Miami tax lawyer, was a leader of the operation.

## Daughter jailed for death order

Salt Lake City (Reuters) - Mrs Frances Schreuder, a New York socialite and patron of the arts, was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of her millionaire father. Her 22-year-old son, Marc, is already serving a sentence of five years to life for shooting her father. Franklyn Bradshaw, born in 1978.

The prosecution alleged that Mrs Schreuder, who is 45, told her son to kill his 78-year-old grandfather, a car parts manufacturer and oil investor, after learning that she had been cut out of his will.

## Naples quake

Naples (AFP) - One person died and more than a dozen were hurt in a strong earthquake between Naples and Pozzuoli. The most serious damage was reported in Capri, where the hospital had to be evacuated because of structural damage.

## Peking guest

Peking (Reuters) - Mr Leonid Ilyichov, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, arrived here for a third round of talks aimed at normalizing relations with China after a two-decade freeze. He shook hands warmly with Mr Qian Qichen, his Chinese counterpart.

## Filibuster bid

Washington (NYT) - Senator Jesse Helms started a filibuster in Congress against a Bill to make Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday. The North Carolina Republican said the civil rights leader had followed a philosophy of "action-oriented Marxism not compatible with the concepts of America."

## Relics stolen

Paola, Italy (AP) - Thieves stole relics and a statue of St Francis of Paola from the chapel of the southern Italian sanctuary named after him. A ransom demand is expected.

## Air strike

Sydney (Reuters) - A 48-hour strike by Australian domestic airline pilots over a new tax on hump sum payments grounded most internal flights, hitting the two main domestic airlines, Trans Australia and Ansett.

## Soldiers hurt

Benediktbeuren (AP) - A US Army helicopter carrying Green Berets to mountain training crashed in the Bavarian Alps, injuring all 10 soldiers on board.

## Murder charge

Gaborone, Botswana (AFP) - Wellia Mathadira Sebosi, the former executive director of the African Development Bank, appeared in court here charged with murdering a lawyer, Mr Bruno Mubotho.

## Odd man out

Lynchburg, Virginia (AFP) - Invited by computer error to a dinner for supporters of the Rev Jerry Falwell, leader of the right-wing Moral Majority, Senator Edward Kennedy refused to attend, saying he was "nobody's monopoly on truth".

## Bank of Ireland announces that with effect

from close of business on 5th October 1983

its Base Rate for lending is reduced from

9½% to 9%

per annum

Bank of Ireland



Co-op Bank announces a change in base rate from 9.50% to 9.00% p.a.

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## Palme faces revolt by business

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

More than 35,000 people, led by some of Sweden's leading industrialists, marched through Stockholm yesterday to protest against plans by Mr Olof Palme, the Socialist Prime Minister, to introduce wage-earner funds, which will allow trade unions to buy shares in private companies.

The white-collar revolt, the largest right-wing demonstration in the nation's history, blocked traffic in central Stockholm for more than an hour as the march converged on the newly reopened Swedish Parliament building on Holy Ghost Island, where the opening of the new session was taking place.

The affair was remarkably well organized and peaceful, with drum majorities and brass bands contributing to an almost carnival atmosphere.

Mr Hans Werthen, head of Electrolux, the multinational household appliances company, Mr Curt Nicolin, chief of the electrical and power company Asa and Mrs Annika Johansson-Mermer, head of the Johnson shipping line, were among those leading the mainly grey-suited demonstrators.

Mr Werthen said it was only the second demonstration he had taken part in.

## Turkey shortlists 1,219 for November poll

From Easik Gardilek, Ankara

Turkey's Supreme Electoral Board yesterday declared 1,219 candidates, including 50 independents, eligible to run for the 400-seat single-chamber National Assembly to be elected for five years on November 6.

However, none of the three parties that qualified for the poll - the centre-right Nationalist Democracy Party, the conservative Motherland Party and the centre-left Populist Party - has enough candidates for every seat in Parliament, thanks to a barrage of vetoes by the ruling National Security Council.

But it was the independents who suffered most rejections: 432 were barred from running.

The rest of the 15 parties founded since last April were disqualified earlier by the council by means of vetoes of their founders.

The Nationalist Democracy Party, headed by Mr Turgut Sunalp, a former general, appears to have the odds on its side. The ruling military deny any favouritism, but three Government ministers are among the party's candidates, and Mr Buland Uzun, the Prime Minister, and three other ministers are running as independents on the party's ticket, leaving little doubt about where military sympathies lie.

The Motherland Party of Mr Turgut Ozal, the former Deputy Prime Minister and economy chief, is regarded by many as a serious rival, however. The



# THE ARTS

## Opera

### No place for youthful love

Werther  
Covent Garden

Several more were added on Monday to the sorrowful young Werther. It was one of those nights when people emerge yawning into the bars and remark on really how extraordinarily hot it is in the theatre this evening, one of those nights when one short act in the opera house can seem to last a lifetime.

The single ray of hope came from Yvonne Kenny as Sophie. She made her contributions with deftness, brilliance and charm; she also had a secure monopoly of French-sounding French. When she entered these dismal proceedings she seemed to be coming from some other performance where things were going rather more happily. It was not surprising she did not stay with us for long.

It is hard to imagine, in particular, that where she came from the Werther was less becoming than Giacomo Aragall. Last season Mr Aragall earned the gratitude of Covent Garden audiences when he bravely stepped into the large breach left by the non-appearance of Luciano Pavarotti as Cavaradossi. He seemed then to be excelling himself, and I am afraid it is now clear how very much he was.

Or perhaps Werther is simply a role he does not feel happy in: that much might be suggested by his unwillingness to venture more than a few paces from the prompt box. And indeed he neither looks nor sounds the juvenile lead. The pangs of youthful love are not made for the more mature breast, and they need to be voiced with something more than Mr Aragall's grey, sandpapered tone. It helps, too, if they come in time.

At this point enter Yvonne Minion as Charlotte. I have never heard Miss Minion sing so positively, confidently and repeatedly flat one can only assume she was dismayed, as well she might be, by what was going on around her, and dismayed even more by what was not. Altogether hers was a very dismayed performance.

Nobody seems to have tried to persuade her that Charlotte is a lady much put upon and finally obliged to listen to this tiresome little man spouting his dying agonies for twenty minutes. In that last act she made no dramatic contact with Mr Aragall at all, and, though there were odd marvellous sounds that could only have come from her lips, the part would appear to have taken little hold on her musical intelligence.

But then intelligence is perhaps not a quality to look for in connection

with Masetti: certainly Jacques Delacoe in the pit was doing his best to persuade us that this composer really is as trivial as he is often painted. Music requiring sophisticated, sinuous and then was all blotched and bumpy, as if to make it sound like the worst of Tchaikovsky played badly.

There were some bits that went very prettily, particularly when the solo violin or a small string group sang out, but these were glowing details in a mess of poorly judged rhythms, inaccurate ensemble and forced drive.

Among the remainder of the cast, Jonathan Summers returns to the role of Albert with distinction: one's sympathies are all with him when he sings so nobly, truly and well. Stafford Dean is the new Bailiff, also a figure of upright strength and determination, with a voice of commanding oratory; he is the image of a local worthy. His cronies are somewhat caricatured by John Gibbs and Paul Crook, and his younger children are sung by a group of infants whose names read like those of a mixed bunch of European commissioners, but who sound quite as dopedly English as so many of their adult companions on stage.

Paul Griffiths



Brilliance and charm, earning sympathy: Yvonne Kenny and Jonathan Summers

## Television

### Talkdown

First Tuesday (Yorkshire) specialises in "human interest", and what could be more human than the spectacle of some men pushing the boat out? Or, rather, several boats - this was a film about the fishermen of Cadgwith, a Cornish village where old salts with names like "Sharky" Stevens talk of ancestral smuggling and murder with a relish previously unknown outside the works of Daphne du Maurier. One could not help but feel, however, that under the scrutiny of the television cameras the little community turned into a something of a waxwork display.

The seascapes were picturesque enough, but they were ruined by an appalling commentary - "Sounds to me like the old lion is getting ready to give up the leadership of the pack", the reporter said to "Sharky", who stared back in bewilderment. The script was littered with clichés about "sweat to be spilled", "natural leaders" and "hard" or "tough" men, which might have come straight out of a bad northern novel from the early Sixties. It was a classic case of an outside television persona imposing his own interpretations and sentiments upon a perfectly nice group of people who did not have the faintest idea what he was talking about.

The other documentary in last night's programme was concerned with life at St Quentin. This is the prison for the most dangerous convicts in California, who seemed either crazed or so "spaced out" that there is nothing but the outline of a person left behind. It is a dangerous place: overcrowded, unhealthy, filled with racial violence and gang warfare. Not the least extraordinary aspect of the prison, however, is that many of the inhabitants seem to flourish there. One female guard was ecstatic about her job: "I couldn't do anything else." And marriages are performed in the visitors' area. Faced with this cornucopia of "human interest", the reporter wisely sat back and watched. He should have gone to Cornwall as well.

Hilary Finch

Peter Ackroyd

## Theatre

### Complacency into comedy

The Hard Shoulder  
Aldwych

When Stephen Fagan's comedy opened at Hampstead this time last year, I made the mistake of calling it a notable addition to the How We Live Now genre. With its fable of a thrusting young wine merchant trying to make it rich in the property boom and falling foul of a civic development scheme, the appropriate category is surely low We Lived Then.

Peopled with characters who all take their charmed lives for granted in the midst of an economic blitz, *The Hard Shoulder* exudes a kind of winked-at getting that was a trademark of the 1970s.

Besides the thrusting Toby and his trusting wife, there is his architect and jobbing builder, both of whom encourage his dazzling visions of an Islington Klondike for reasons of their own. The only outsider at this mutual carve-up is a guileless young squatter whose dazed ruminations on conservation and the property instinct come over as the death-rattle of the flower children.

Mr Fagan's achievement is to take this moribund group and revitalize it in an emergency and brilliantly plotted comedy that passes judgment on the charac-



Stephen Moore: triumphant fury

ters only by allowing them to caricature themselves.

You get the sense of looming disaster from the first sight of Toby, bestirring the precarious of Tanya McCallie's ingeniously hinged set, and training his binoculars on a nearby slum and a threatened motorway as if scanning the horizon for enemy submarines.

Sure enough, the motorway advances, the house values tumble to zero, a motorway protest meeting draws one anti-traffic freak (a marvellous cameo by Yvonne D'Alpra) and the luckless Toby finally heads the advice of his builder (a fireman, but not at heart) to set light to the property and collect the insurance.

In performance the main question is whether Toby ranks as an intelligent speculator or a duffer. As Hamstead, Peter Blythe played him as an absurd but totally self-confident figure. At the Aldwych, he is played by Stephen Moore, who excels in passages of aghast dismay and fugal, tearing exclamations of triumph and exasperated fury, but he is an incurably sympathetic actor, who leaves you feeling that he was carried into this business by forces beyond his control. The play is diminished by seeing him as a victim.

Mr Blythe, still dispensing nasal gulps and hee-haw giggles, takes over the less assertive role of the architect, and mixes it for wonderful unconscious give-aways.

The rest of Nancy Meckler's company remains unchanged; and it is as much fun as ever to see Glyn Owen arriving from the latest toy-factory fire-clutching a singed teddy bear, and Philip Bird's squatter innocently describing his satisfaction in manual labour on the motorway. As before, Liza Goddard takes your breath away with her complacent line on the impending loss of her luxurious family home: "Oh no, it's so right for the children".

Irving Wardle

## Dance

### Second Stride

The Place

Siobhan Davies's creation for Second Stride, first given at Edinburgh last month and having its London premiere to open the Dance Umbrella season on Monday, is a worthy dance. It takes its title, *Minor Characters*, from a novel, but not its subject, and it has dialogue by another writer, Barbara McLaren.

I can understand the desire of choreographers, when quite a few non-dancers are presenting quasi-dance pieces, to break out in the other direction, but it usually proves ill-advised. In this instance, apart from finding the text a sad mixture of banality and heavy-handed punchlines, I thought it detracted from the effect of the dancing. Davies is trying to show us characters through their small movements, but it works best when the two speakers shut up.

We do not need to be told that a character is full of energy and curiosity when we can see it for ourselves, and choreography can show us how a couple pick each other up (in the physical sense) more quickly and revealingly than a double dialogue of words and thoughts.

If this sort of thing is to be done at all, parts of it are rather well done, especially by Sally Owen among the speakers and Juliet Fisher among the dancers.

## Concert

Philharmonia/  
Kasprzyk  
Festival Hall

The Philharmonia are to be congratulated in presenting, within the space of four days, ample edification for both the most ardent Mahlerphile and the most rampant Mahlerphobe. It was a happy, if perhaps coincidental, piece of programme planning to follow Mahler's Third Symphony last Thursday with his Fourth on Monday, with its finale interchange and its rich *Wunderhorn* cross-referencing. But the effect of the juxtaposition on the calendar of Esa-Pekka Salonen's rich insight into the former with Jacek Kasprzyk's sardonic travesty of the latter would have to be foreseen to be believed.

The orchestra rose splendidly to Mr Kasprzyk's demands to provide everything for the Mahlerphobe and little for anyone else, as those who wisely made their exits between movements were quick to realize. It was all there: the trite melody, the crude orchestration, the crass juxtaposition; the sugary portamento, the self-indulgent grotesquerie, the sad caricature of adult childhood. Mr Kasprzyk is, in short, and when let loose on Mahler, music's answer to Gerald Scarf - except that he lacks any comparable wit, shrewdness of perception or style.

human beings has changed that much since the sixteenth century - though we're taller and better nourished. But the nature of the organ that produces the sound is the same. So why not just aim for your own individual sound - respond to the instruments around you, that's very important - and then singers will begin to sound more and more different from each other.

That seemed like an exhortation to people not to imitate the Kirby early-music sound. "There has been a danger of that because my voice is now so much recorded. Not with the singers, I'm bound to say, who have their own ideas of how they should sound, but with the directors, who say 'Why can't you sound like her?' But I think that's over now; there are so many other sopranos making beautiful, quite distinctive sounds in this repertoire, and if you look in *Early Music News* there seem to be a couple of new vocal consorters every month - there's a great deal of variety."

Surely, though, her style of performance has had an immense influence? "I don't know. I would be pleased if a particular attitude to performance caught on, but not a particular sound. What sort of attitude? 'The kind of thing that the great singers in this area like Nigel Rogers and David Thomas have cultivated: an attitude to diction and to directness of utterance, the awareness that the text in a piece of seventeenth-century music is absolutely the most important thing, more important than the sound.'"

Does this directness not inhibit subtlety and the expression of ambiguity, say in Monteverdi or Mozart? "I think singers can be aware of the ambiguities, but it's their job to render the piece 'straight' and then let the subtleties take their course with the audience. I think audiences now are much more attuned to different ways of expressing feeling and emotion."

"It's always best to start from the point of view of total commitment. Don't be an abolitionist: you can't do this, you can't do that. Of course you set certain limits, a certain scale, but within that live as dangerously as you can. Don't practise with the piano: that continual warm background gives you the wrong sort of support, and it distracts from detail of what's going on in your voice. Sing a lot in a silence just sing to yourself without anything to cover it up. You have to listen for the centre of your voice."

John Percival



Emma Kirkby (right), now established as one of the leading voices in early music, begins a nationwide tour tonight: interview by Nicholas Kenyon

### The sound of style

singer, and a sampler of her solo work, *A Portrait of Emma Kirkby*, has already appeared. But the new disc, devoted to Purcell songs, in which she collaborates with Anthony Rooley and Christopher Hogwood, is her first original solo recording.

As if that was not all enough, she made *Private Eye* recently when her biography in the programme for her appearance at the Proms contained a classic misprint: "Emma Kirkby", it declared, "first became interested in early music while under an undergraduate at Oxford."

Perhaps that will at least help to remove the aura of purity and boyishness which still hangs around her voice. I wondered whether that sort of description, still often used of her, was irritating? "I suppose some people will call my sound boyish to my dying day. Actually, I think my voice is changing - you couldn't say it sounds like a recorder any more! But no, that isn't irritating, though it is strange when you pour yourself into some intense, poignant, suffering tune song and the review just says 'charming'."

"My voice is light, and there will always be some roles, even in Handel and Mozart, which

need more weight. But that's exactly right: there were always different voices around. Now I'm finding what I can do best: I'm going to record Bach's solo soprano cantata *Jauchzet Gott* with John Eliot Gardiner, for Phonogram, and I'm exploring Mozart, doing his complete sacred music for soprano and chorus for Florilegium."

Though she is now firmly into the eighteenth century, her most characteristic work remains that with Anthony Rooley in the lute-song repertoire, and more recently in Italian seventeenth-century music. What are the problems of communicating emotion in this earlier repertoire? "We have had a problem that in training voices to express deep emotion people have been aiming at operatic-style effects, and, more important, at projecting in very large spaces, accompanied by a thick, dense orchestra. What sounds passionate in that context would obviously overwhelm a Monteverdi ensemble. The point is not to abandon the intensity, quite the opposite, but to scale it down so that it doesn't drown a line."

And does the sound she produces come from a natural physical response, or from information in treatises and documents from the past? "Ha! Of course I'm interested in drawing out physical characteristics, because that's the only way to produce a good, natural sound. And I do read every little thing which survives, though the indications, say, in Monteverdi's letters are very rare, like gold-dust. The other trouble with written evidence is that the terms are so subjective: expressive, pure, whatever. And you can't just create a sound theoretically out of the blue anyway: you have to make some sort of sound and then respond to it, modify it."

But you cannot, as an instrumentalist can, pick up an old instrument and see what comes out? "I think you should try that with the voice. I don't think the physiognomy of

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# THE TIMES DIARY

## Arrested career

The top job with Devon and Cornwall police is again on offer, a mere 18 months after John "Communist" Alderson retired as Chief Constable after eight distinguished years. David East, his successor, has become Chief Constable of South Wales.

I hear, however, that the police authority is having difficulty filling East's boots and is now re-advertising the post because other police appointments in the country dramatically denuded its short list.

Until a new chief is appointed Brian Morgan will be acting Chief Constable. Although he is the man who largely implemented Alderson's community policing plan he is debarré from the top job by Home Office rules, having already served as an assistant and deputy chief constable there.

Alderson, 61, lost the new and splendidly picturesque Devon seat of Teignbridge for the Liberals at the general election, and is now writing a book.

Some of his supporters still hope he will get to Westminster through a Liberal seat in the Lords. But I fear he will go the way of most expolicemen by joining a security organization. Next week he is due to launch a new system of marking valuable household goods, for a firm that is confidently expected to offer him a permanent job.

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# Less rhetoric, more Realpolitik

George Walden argues for a more common sense approach to East-West relations

We are entering one of the most acute phases of East-West relations since the war. The West will need all the cohesion and statesmanship it can muster. For me at least, our aim is not in question: it is to compel the Russians to desist from their attempt to force Western Europe to live in the shadow of their nuclear dominance.

Aims are one thing, methods another. How do we achieve our objective? By a display of competitive indignation about Soviet iniquity, and a game of nuclear "chicken"? By outshouting a thick-skinned totalitarian regime? Or by sober steadfastness in our central purpose?

Above all we shall need solidarity at home. This country has a fine tradition of sobriety in East-West relations. Churchill began it with his warnings about Soviet ambitions. But his rhetoric was many-layered, and suffused with history. His words were not just projectiles. As early as 1950, he also warned us of the need for prudence and conciliation, as well as strength. That was in Stalin's time. In our own day that sort of talk would bring easy jeers of dampness, or worse.

It was Churchill too who called for a summit one week, and for German rearmament the next. Only the Russians and the Americans saw any contradiction. Whatever else he was, Churchill was not a one-dimensional man.

The British responded to this approach, because it made sense. Today, Mrs Thatcher has won over the electorate again to sound sense on disarmament and the deterrent. Now we must keep the country with us, as a matter of practical politics, as we move into this difficult and dangerous period. It will not be done by words of words. There is a healthy distaste for that here whether it comes from extremist Labour politicians or from the Kremlin. But we do admire, and respond to, cool resolution of the Falklands variety.

The Prime Minister in her speeches frequently contrasts our pluralistic society with Soviet totalitarianism. Pluralism applies to governments, too. They are not expected to see everything in black and white, but to exploit a richer range. We cannot and should not try to shout down the Russians. That would not make them go away, and they will always win a contest of abuse.

Our more objective style of "propaganda" is more efficient in the long term (which is why we



"Well, anyway, I'm at the top table!" - how Vicky saw Alec Douglas-Home's role between the superpowers in 1964

should scrape up the extra pennies to keep the BBC overseas services in top gear). In her speech in Washington last week, the Prime Minister rightly drew attention to the superiority of western culture. "Culture," she said, "is not a word, it is a reality." (Matthew Arnold. So, I suspect, do the British.)

We shall not keep public opinion with us if East-West exchanges continue at their present pitch. There will be a reaction. All sorts of people - not just the weak and the wobbly - will start to shrink back, and to ask whether we have got the nuclear arithmetic right. In our fair-minded British way, some will be tempted to find excuses for the Russians in their anxiety to "correct the balance". (The beginnings of this tendency can be seen over the Korean airliner. . . .) They will begin to ask whether it is all really necessary.

The shameless dodging of the issue by the Liberals (will their policy on the cruise missiles be ready before deployment is due?) could raise a question mark over the non-inclusion of Polaris in the nuclear equation. All good news for the Russians, and dangerous for the allies.

Policy cannot and should not be geared to the weak-willed. But nor should it go out of its way to alienate the hesitant. European solidarity is equally crucial. Will the Germans, Dutch and Belgians be encouraged

or embarrassed by recent speeches by President Reagan, Vice-President Bush and Mrs Thatcher? Will they be rallied, or worried? The tone has to be right for The Hague as well as Ohio. Once again, one-dimensional politics will not do.

Britain has a peculiar role in keeping Europe and the US together, not as a vulgar middle-man, but as a catalyst of common sense. Look at our contribution to the establishment of Nato itself. Look at Eden at Geneva, Macmillan and the partial nuclear test ban, and at Alec Douglas-Home's underrated achievement in steady western over-enthusiasm for détente in the early stages of the European Security Conference.

Where is the British reputation for tough but informed and imaginative East-West diplomacy today? Harold Wilson's wheedling, ingratiating style lost us the respect of the Russians as well as of the West. Now we are respected all right, but we are not in the game. No serving British prime minister has been to Moscow for eight years.

How can we expect to influence our allies if we cannot speak from experience? The West German position is as central as ever. But what can we tell Herr Kohl about the Russians or Andropov? He's been to the Soviet Union and met him. No one here has. And where is the "battle of ideas" the Prime Minister mentioned? How

many MPs, editors or artists have been battling in Moscow over the last decade? Partly because of this, the debate about how to deal with the Soviet Union has become sadly debased.

Why haven't I been ruder about the Russians in this article? Because I assume that people are aware of the obvious, but are less confident about how to deal with it. We could all write a book on the excesses of détente. Now we must evolve a less sentimental policy - but remember that there are "hard" as well as "soft" sentimentalists.

There is an urgent need to revive the British tradition of East-West statesmanship. Who could possibly suspect us, or the Prime Minister, of all people, of unprincipled bridge-building, or infirmity of purpose, if we were to make an effort to know our adversaries better and to argue things over face to face?

Public opinion is less primitive on these issues than some politicians seem to suppose. People know perfectly well that strong words in private can be more effective than in public. They know that you need sound defences to talk, and that we have these too. But they also sense that there is a vacuum of leadership in the West today that cannot be filled with noise alone.

The author is Conservative MP for Buckingham.

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# Pitfalls - despite the new Labour unity

Instead of leaving by the front door to go to the Commons for a three-line whip vote, Neil Kinnock took a short cut through the open drawing-room window. With one leg cocked over the windowsill, he paused and turned to my wife saying, "and all because the lady loves Milk Tray".

This style of exuberant clowning - coming as it did in the wake of a heated, political argument - is one of the most endearing things about Neil Kinnock and nearly explains why he is so well liked within the Labour Party. He is refreshingly free of the self-important gravitas that characterizes so many leading politicians.

But the main reason, of course, why Neil Kinnock triumphed at Brighton on Sunday is because a collective instinct of self-preservation extending to both right and left, suggested that he was the man best able to revive Labour's flagging fortunes. Solidly right-wing unions like the shop workers and clerical workers joined left-wing unions like the train drivers and public employees to back him. The same process was at work in the constituencies with traditionally right-wing parties in the Midlands and the North-east joining some left-wing parties in the new left strongholds of Scotland and London to produce an astonishing tally of 91 per cent of constituency parties voting for Kinnock in the first ballot.

Neil Kinnock is now in a uniquely strong position to bond together the disparate elements within the Labour Party. He is the first leader to be elected by the wider membership of the Labour movement, and will enjoy special authority within the party as a consequence.

He also enjoys a breadth of support, not merely on the right and the left, but across the different sections of the Labour movement that none of his immediate predecessors enjoyed. If James Callaghan or Hugh Gaitskell had been obliged to contest the leadership on an extended franchise, they would have been hammered in the constituencies. Had Harold Wilson and Michael Foot been subjected to the same test, they probably would not have gained a large majority of union votes. Yet Kinnock won 49 per cent of the MPs' votes (with at least another 14 per cent pledged to him in the second ballot) and well over two thirds of constituency and union votes.

Neil Kinnock will also be spared some of the problems that beset Michael Foot, who found himself caught in the crossfire between the competing power centres in the Labour Party. Foot's problem in his last year was that he was in a minority within both the Shadow Cabinet and the National Executive Committee (NEC), both of which were controlled by Labour's right wing. This generated constant pressure on him to "assert his authority" by backing moves that

led to confrontation with the party's grassroots.

But Kinnock was aided yesterday by the elections to the NEC, which produced an inconclusive result in which neither the "hard left" nor the "hard right" is in overall control. This leaves Kinnock and his close associates holding the balance of power. He will be able to determine what policy stand the national executive will take in the next year.

Changes within the Parliamentary Labour Party will also probably operate in the new leader's favour. The broadly defined left now constitutes about half the MPs whereas before the election they accounted for only about a third. This shift is likely to result, later this month, in the election of a Shadow Cabinet with whom Kinnock will find it easy to work (unless the Tribune and Campaign groups of left-wing MPs fail to agree on a common ticket). This will lead, in turn, to the establishment of a working relationship between Kinnock and Hattersley in which the former will be very clearly boss.

Of course, a great number of pitfalls lie ahead. The Labour Party's credibility could be badly dented by a poor showing in next year's European elections. The Government's pending trade union legislation could cut off the party's financial life support system if trade unionists vote against the retention of political votes. The reselection of MPs, in which three members of the present Shadow Cabinet could well lose their seats, may cause hackles to rise. Labour's right wing may launch a campaign to reverse constitutional reforms in the party and expel more Militant members, thereby condemning the party to a further damaging period of introspection. Part of Labour's left wing will oppose all changes in the party's manifesto commitment.

But there exists at this year's party conference a surprisingly pervasive mood of conciliation among party and union delegates engendered by a feeling that the Labour Party is at a historic moment where it will either regain lost ground or be eclipsed by the Alliance. This mood, if skilfully harnessed by Neil Kinnock and those around him could carry the party through.

Some five years ago, Neil Kinnock told a Bannette dinner party given by *Tribune's* editor, Chris Mullin, "Don't worry, my wife will keep me on the broad and left". His wife has not been entirely successful. Kinnock's meteoric rise and that of Hattersley represents in reality a consolidation of the centre-right control of the Labour Party, but most of the left will nevertheless sustain the new leadership because it is essential in the interests of the party, that it succeeds. Disaffected right-wing Labour MPs will, I hope, display the same degree of realism at a time when the Labour Party is in dire trouble.

The author is editor of *New Socialist*

# Jock Bruce-Gardyne Whitehall can't be Americanized

A speech by a former temporary civil servant which rates a response from the chairman of the Conservative Party, a former senior cabinet minister, and two former Whitehall permanent secretaries, and extensive editorial comment in the national press led by *The Times*, must be something out of the ordinary. But then I have occasionally felt that Sir John Hoskyns, successful entrepreneur turned pundit-in-residence at No 10, has missed his true vocation: he is a marvellous communicator. We can argue till the cows come home about his diagnosis of the national condition, and the remedies he advances. There is no disputing the skills of presentation.

No one who has lived at Westminster, and sat behind a ministerial desk, could challenge many of his charges with an easy conscience. There is a dead weight of pessimism and inertia in the Whitehall machine that is mighty hard to move. The House of Commons is a closed shop in which clubability is a surer route to preferment than plain ability; and it does display a childish hostility to implants. The work-load on ministers is crushing to an extent that makes long-term planning well-nigh impossible. And some, at least, of his time-bombs ticking away - neglected pension provision in particular - are real enough.

Not altogether surprisingly, his latest broadside, courtesy of the Institute of Directors, earned an immediate endorsement from his Labour predecessor, Dr Bernard Donoughue.

Many of the outside comments must have struck Sir John as woefully predictable. He has been arraigned as a modern business fascist: a natural acolyte to Mr Cecil King's weird plans in the 1960s to stage a palace revolution and have a junta of tycoons to rescue us from Harold Wilson. In reality, the obvious model for the reforms he advocates (although he is reluctant to acknowledge the parentage) is the United States, which, for all its short-comings, is not usually identified as a fascist state. There the President can pick the members of his cabinet as the fancy takes him; and the commanding heights of the bureaucracy are occupied by the political appointees of the presidency.

Whether the Americans are thereby better governed than we are must be a matter of debate. They are certainly differently governed: and this I think Sir John ignores. The President may be surrounded by successful businessmen who can bring the skills of management to the machine of government. But the

crucial check of responsiveness in popular opinion is supplied by Congress, with a membership which is not primarily dependent on presidential patronage.

In theory we could once more have a government composed of men and women of the Prime Minister's exclusive choosing, with placement in the House of Lords. But I question whether the House of Commons could then be expected to play the role of Congress.

What struck me most about Sir John's suggested remedies, however, was their familiarity. He paraphrased a number of defensive responses from Whitehall. One of them was: "But we tried all this in 1974, and it didn't work". Well we did, didn't we?

The 1970 government started with a Secretary of State for Industry recruited from the CBI; a bunch of businessmen brought in to put the Civil Service through the mangle; that scientific and financial wizard Lord Rothschild set up at the apex of a pyramid of young geniuses, mostly recruited from outside Whitehall, to challenge the wisdom of the old guard; a village over dinner at the Mirabelle; and a fistful of American techniques called PARs (Program Appraisal and Review) and PPBSs (Planning Programming Budgeting Systems) to extract right answers from the central government machine. Yet four years later we had had full-scale reorganizations of the health service and local government which did not command universal approbation; a massive capital investment programme for the steel industry which looked odd in the light of subsequent events; and disastrous collision with the miners leading to electoral defeat.

And at the end of it all the key role in Whitehall was not occupied by one of the recruits from business, most of whom had long since departed, but by a career civil servant, Sir William Armstrong. I am sure Sir John is right to argue that the task confronting the second Thatcher administration is siffer than the one first accomplished. The first stopped the rot; the second has to produce the positive results. But I can not help feeling that the key to the success of the 1979 government was its own recognition that salvation was not in Whitehall's gift, and its ability to impart that message with conviction.

Sir John, when all is said and done, is fundamentally impatient with self-denial. I think he is wrong.

The author was Economic Secretary to the Treasurer in Mrs Thatcher's last government.

# Patricia Clough on a young businessman's battle against EEC barriers

## A German gamble Britain could win





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## MR FOOT'S FAREWELL

The Labour Conference yesterday gave its customary ovation to the Michael Foot it has known and loved. For his farewell speech as Leader, Mr Foot did not disappoint them. Indeed it was as though he recognized, like the old performer that he is, that any audience is deeply conservative and loves more and more of the same. The essence of burlesque, after all, is in its predictability. Mr Foot duly gave that to them, ham and all. That was only fitting for a man whose private personality is one of kindness and generosity, so often at variance with the public expression of anger and despair which seems to affect the orator, if not the man.

Consequently Mr Foot's speech was almost a self-parody. It was delivered with the familiar hectoring tone. Its content was typical of so many previous speeches - long on rhetoric, short on substance; barbed with mixed with friendly homily. He had fierce criticism for Dr Owen, Mrs Thatcher, and the servile Press. He paid lip-service to the scale of Labour's defeat, and his shared shame in that defeat. Yet in his subsequent passages he exonerated not just the Labour Party, but explicitly the Party's election manifesto which he went out of his way to defend. He thus implicitly lent his valedictory authority as Leader to all those people in the Party who believe that the policies were right and the people - the electorate - were wrong.

Apart from the fact that that passage will not make Mr Foot's job any easier, Mr Foot appears to have forgotten that the manifesto burdened

Labour in June. It was a hurried cobble-up of all the twinkles in every Socialist eye. It had no sense of programme or priority. If he has forgotten that, he was merely revealing one more aspect of an incurably selective memory; if he has not, he did Mr Kinnock and Mr Hattersley an uncharacteristic disservice.

So now Mr Foot will return to the backbenches where he belongs. Indeed had his political career ended in 1974, before he took office, his political epitaph would have been very different from what it must be today. Below the gateway he was the great parliamentary gadfly, a necessary and welcome player in the theatre of the House of Commons; at the dispatch box it was a different story. Quite frankly, political responsibility ill-became him.

In Mr Foot's first ministry, at Employment, he saw it as his duty to curvy favour with the trade unions by passing outrageously illiberal employment laws on the closed shop. They made a mockery in retrospect of so many of the fine liberal principles which he had declared as a backbencher and certainly always seemed to apply on the personal level. As Leader of the House he successfully masterminded the intricacies of the Lib-Lab Pact. In both jobs he served his Prime Minister faithfully in helping to preserve Labour unity at almost any cost.

However, if a comparison has to be made between the fate of the Labour Party in 1980 when Mr Foot became its leader, and its state today, it is hard not to conclude that his belated decision to stand for the leadership

was a mistake. Who knows? If Mr Healey had won the leadership, which he almost certainly would have done had Mr Foot not stood, would the Gang of Four have then broken off to form the SDP? Would they now attract the accusations of treachery made by Mr Foot yesterday, whose vehemence barely concealed how much it is his own Party which has let down so many of its followers that they fled to vote for the SDP?

Mr Healey might have had some internal troubles in leading the Party, but who can say that Mr Foot had none when every speaker at Brighton has blamed party disunity for the election debacle? If the 1983 election was lost because of disunity, Mr Foot's election in 1980, which was held up as the only way to prevent Party divisions, can only be seen as a thundering failure. At the time, this newspaper described his election to the leadership as an unmitigated disaster. Disaster it certainly was, though mitigated by the fact that he brought to the office of leader a basic decency, and sometimes even an innocence, which was not always evident with his predecessors.

The extent of Mr Foot's failure to preserve Party unity has now created a situation in which a wholly new generation of leadership has an opportunity to rejuvenate the party. Such an opportunity would not have been available to anybody inheriting the Party in a reasonable rather than a wretched state. Thus some good has come of his leadership, if only by default. That is the sad measurement of Mr Foot's contribution to Labour history.

## VIVE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

Exactly twenty-five years ago, on October 5 1958, the Fourth French Republic came to an end and the Fifth was officially born. The *Journal Officiel* published the full text of the new constitution, adopted the previous Sunday by a majority of nearly six to one among the inhabitants not only of France but of Algeria and the various overseas departments and territories.

Of all those territories only Guinea, in West Africa, rejected the choice which the constitution offered of remaining a dependent territory, being integrated into the French Republic as an overseas department, or joining the new, quasi-federal "French Community" as a fully autonomous unit. Under the leadership of M Sékou Touré, Guinea voted "no", and thereby chose immediate secession from France. General de Gaulle's Government took the territory at its word, and the French administration pulled out of Guinea in a matter of days, taking with it whatever French Government property it could remove even, it was said, ripping out the telephone lines from Government offices.

Guinea was punished for its act of defiance by a cutting-off of all relations with France and the rest of French West Africa. Inevitably, it turned to Moscow for aid. Perhaps no less inevitably, M Touré developed galloping paranoia and soon became one of the most repressive rulers on the African continent.

Yet, ironically enough, the Community which Guinea had spurned lasted less than two years. The independence accorded with such ill grace to Guinea in 1958 was granted with good will and much mutual congratulation to the other territories of French West and Equatorial Africa in 1960. Today both M Touré and M Houphouët-Boigny of the Ivory

Coast - a member of de Gaulle's Government and leader of the African "yes" camp in 1958 - are in France, taking part in the tenth annual Franco-African summit conference. The formal institution of the Community has proved superficial for, as independent (or, in de Gaulle's preferred phraseology, "internationally sovereign") states, the French-speaking African countries have found it quite natural to maintain a special relationship with the *ancienne métropole*.

By a further irony, the French president today playing host to the African heads of state was himself in the "no" camp in 1958. M François Mitterrand, then not yet a socialist but an uncompromising "republican", refused to join in the abdication of France's elected leaders when faced with the insurrectionary coup of the French Army in Algiers. He saw the handover of power to de Gaulle as a surrender to military blackmail, and wrote an indictment of the resulting regime and its institutions entitled *Le Coup d'état permanent*.

It was not a fashionable view at the time, and it caused M Mitterrand, for the only time in his career, to lose his parliamentary seat. Yet this very consistency in opposition to de Gaulle and his régime was to be an important factor in M Mitterrand's emergence as the leader of the left and so, eventually, as heir to those very institutions which he had so strongly condemned. He now wields, with considerable firmness, those very presidential powers that he once criticized as excessive in the hands of de Gaulle.

M Mitterrand could not bring himself to mark the anniversary with any official ceremony, and his party boycotted the celebration organized yesterday by M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist

mayor of Paris and former prime minister, at the Hôtel de Ville. Nor, however, has M Mitterrand as president yet made any move to amend the constitution - not even by reducing the presidential term from seven years to five, which was one of his electoral planks in 1981.

That was also one of three reforms suggested by M Giscard d'Estaing in his speech at the Hôtel de Ville yesterday, and opinion polls show that it is popular with voters of all parties. By making the presidential and parliamentary terms of equal length, it would palliate the most obvious weakness in the 1958 constitution, as amended in 1962: the potential conflict between president and parliament, both elected by universal suffrage. The president appoints the prime minister, but the latter must enjoy the confidence of the National Assembly; so what if the two are of opposite political complexions?

So far it has never happened, because the voters have always elected a parliamentary majority willing to support the president, but it now seems very likely to happen in 1986 when M Mitterrand's presidential mandate will still have two years to run. He could in theory "co-habit" for those two years with a right-wing parliamentary majority, but only by accepting a great diminution of his own power.

The final irony is that, if he did that, he would be respecting the text of the 1958 constitution much more exactly than de Gaulle or any of his successors, including M Mitterrand himself, have ever done. On paper the constitution gives the president powers to ensure the smooth running of democracy and, in an emergency, to intervene directly to save the republic. It does not make him the full-time chief executive he has in practice been.

## THE PRESIDENT'S REGRETS

President Reagan was clearly right to cancel his visit to the Philippines, even though it meant cancelling other parts of the tour as well. The danger to his life was obvious; the risk was not worth taking. Even an unsuccessful assassination attempt would have been politically damaging for host and guest, as well as emotionally stressful.

But there were other good reasons for the decision. This is not the best moment for President Reagan to associate himself closely with the regime of President Marcos. There would have been huge and turbulent demonstrations - designed to show the strength of opposition to President Marcos. If these had represented only a small minority, and if President Reagan's personal safety could have been assured, it might have been worth weathering them for the sake of showing American support for an important ally in an area of great strategic importance. However, the demonstrations would in fact have represented very widespread

opposition to a regime, which may now be nearing the end of its days. For the American president to have lent his personal authority to it at this stage would have been counterproductive.

President Marcos is ill, perhaps fatally. He has also been badly discredited by the assassination of Mr Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader who was shot at Manila airport in August. The commission which was supposed to investigate is shunned because everyone knows it cannot produce an impartial result. It is widely believed that a senior military figure was responsible, not necessarily with the knowledge or acquiescence of President Marcos, but perhaps out of fear that President Marcos had become too weak to withstand the challenge of his opponent's return.

This weakness is political as well as personal. Opposition has been growing not just on the left but among the business and professional classes, who complain of bureaucratic inefficiency, favouritism and gener-

ally bad management. Black marketing is on the increase. Capital is leaving the country at an alarming rate. The foreign debt is at about \$18,000 million and may have to be re-scheduled. There is danger of more rapid economic deterioration.

Obviously the cancellation of President Reagan's visit could make things worse because it will rightly be seen as in part a gesture of no confidence in President Marcos. But it could also be salutary if it pushes President Marcos into paying more heed to responsible critics, notably in the Church, who have been urging him to broaden his support in order to lay the foundations for an orderly succession before it is too late. Cardinal Jaime Sin, Archbishop of Manila, has led the way in calling for a council of national reconciliation to investigate the murder of Mr Aquino and prepare the ground for a free election. He is an influential figure. By listening to him President Marcos could still save his country from falling into the hands of extremists of right or left.

## Exchanging insults as a means to peace

*From Lord Gladwyn*  
Sir, You are quite right in holding (leader, October 1) that "détente" as conceived in the West, is an illusion. For so long as there is a régime in Moscow based (perhaps chiefly for the purpose of maintaining itself in power) on the professed belief that totalitarian socialism is the only way forward and that the "free democracies" are a perversion whose inevitable end must be speeded up by all means not directly counter-productive, "tension" must persist. But, just as the Soviet Government will stop short of reinforcing propaganda by action which might provoke a shooting war, so must we. It follows that it may not matter very much whether Mr Andropov denounces Mrs Thatcher as a crazy war-monger and she (implicitly) compares him with Hitler. But whether exchanging insults does any good is another matter. Unless leaders on both sides are mad, it must be apparent to them that a war between the two super-powers would result, if not in

mutual obliteration, at least in both achieving what they appear respectively in regard to their objectives, namely the end of the Soviet Empire and the suppression of all freedom in Western democracies. So negotiations on arms control and limitation are the only way in which, despite continuing "tension", the danger of war can be notably reduced, of not eliminated. And, incidentally, if negotiations result in less money being spent on arms, the economies of both sides will benefit and both thus be enabled to lighten various economic burdens that they now have to carry. But if you are to negotiate - and are even condemned to succeed - it hardly helps if, whatever your feelings, you say openly that your regard your partner as an enemy of the human race. Yours faithfully, GLADWYN, Bramfield Hall, Haleswater, Suffolk, October 2.

## Labour on defence

*From Professor Michael Howard*  
Sir, If, as seems likely, the Labour Party conference pledges itself at the end of this week to a non-nuclear defence policy for Britain, it needs to make two things clear. First, a defence policy for these islands, whether nuclear or non-nuclear, makes any sense today except in the context of an alliance with our European neighbours and the United States. Secondly, non-nuclear defence, however desirable, will inevitably involve a substantial increase in defence expenditure. If it is prepared to accept these consequences of its declaratory policy the Labour Party will have at least begun the hard task of establishing its image as a conceivable alternative government. If not, its declarations will continue to be dismissed by the electorate as empty and irrelevant rhetoric. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL HOWARD, Oriel College, Oxford, October 3.

## Irish jewels

*From the Reverend Peter Galloway*  
Sir, I see from your article on today's front page (September 29) that, once again, the question of the whereabouts of the so-called "Irish crown jewels" has been brought to the attention of the public. Since your article of July 9, 1987, which reported that "Dublin is much excited" over the disappearance of valuable state jewels, the fate of these jewels has been a matter of public concern. As many people as the fate of the Marie Celeste and the whole episode has spawned a large number of myths and legends and, in recent years, two novels.

Unfortunately, your article has not only perpetuated some of these half-truths, but also invented some new ones and this seems to be a good opportunity to set down the facts. Firstly, the jewels consisted of a diamond badge and a diamond star of the Grand Master of the Order of St Patrick, an office held ex-officio by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. They were worn by him and not by the Sovereign.

Secondly, at no time did the Grand Master or the Sovereign wear "a jewel-encrusted gold collar" and, in the course of my research into the history of the Order over the past 12 years, I have not discovered the existence of such an item. Five plain gold and enamel Knights' collars were stolen at the same time as the Grand Master's regalia, but none of them, as far as I know, were encrusted with jewels.

Thirdly, the official charged with their safe keeping was known as Ulster King of Arms, not Ulster Herald, and only one member of his staff was shot dead in mysterious circumstances - Peter Mahony, Clerk Herald, on July 26, 1914. Fourthly, the question of ownership: I cannot see why either the British Government or the National Museum of Ireland would have any claim on the regalia if and when they are found. The regalia and insignia were the property of the Order of St Patrick, of which Order her Majesty the Queen is Sovereign head, in so far as it still exists.

If the Gardaí are successful in their efforts to recover these pieces after more than 70 years there can be no question that the pieces are the property of the Queen. Yours sincerely, PETER GALLOWAY, Top Flat, St John's Wood High Street, NW5, September 29.

## Tougher prison regime

*From Mr Leo Abse, MP for Torfaen (Labour)*  
Sir, My attention has been drawn, on my return from abroad, to Peter Evans's article, "Tougher prisons for prison toughs" (August 2) and the subsequent letter from Professor J. E. Thomas (August 8).

According to the former, Mr Jonathan Uzzell, the number three Governor at Wormwood Scrubs, has accused me of "deceit and manipulation" (Professor Thomas prefers the word "cynicism") for my part in bringing about a policy of dispersing Category A prisoners among several establishments rather than concentrating them in the oppressive fortress prison proposed by the Mountbatten report.

The fact that as a member of the Radzinowicz committee I frankly adopted a political policy to achieve rejection of Mountbatten's proposals does not mean that our recommendation for a dispersal policy was based on weak founda-

## Law of the Sea Treaty

*From Professor D. R. Denman*  
Sir, Surely Mr Maxwell Bruce, QC, in his letter (September 29) on the Law of the Sea Treaty shows Britain and the British Government in a false light in this matter. Admittedly, the US Administration were strong in their efforts to persuade our country and others against signing the treaty. But did we not sign it? Do we today withhold our signature (and there is still time enough to sign) at the instance of American pressure? Most certainly not.

Well before the Reagan Administration took office the British Government were actively seeking improvements to the draft Law of the Sea Convention. We did not push our objections because, at that time, America was anxious to complete the negotiations as quickly as possible.

President Reagan's reversal on American policy was, if anything, close to our own previously held position. We did not follow the American line but rather the reverse. Britain has led as a moderate in this sea of controversy. We signed the first Act in 1982, which the US did not do.

On no count can it be true that we have forgone our influence, participation and leadership, as Mr Maxwell Bruce would have us believe. As so often, Britain is playing the part of a wise, well informed and cautious participant. There is a caveat to be entered. We have done just that: secured in our own conviction - neither blindly following another's counsel nor giving way before another's persuasion. Yours faithfully, D. R. DENMAN, Pembroke College, Cambridge.

## International trade

*From Mr G. B. O'Flynn*

Sir, In your supplement covering World Banking (September 26) there is an article by John Lawless in which he refers to Mr Ken Durham, chairman of the Trade Policy Research Centre's strong advocacy of free trade, arguing that the price of restricting or excluding entry to the EEC of consumer goods from such as Japan and Brazil "is not only limited consumer choice, but also massive industrial inefficiency".

The extent of choice which today confronts the consumer of most manufactured goods is sufficiently bewildering to make us narrowing a matter for welcome by most of us but even so would be a trivial price to pay should it lead to a sharp reduction in the 18 to 20 millions unemployed in Europe.

But it is the second of Mr Durham's contentions which really needs to be challenged, because it implies that lack of competitiveness is attributable only to manufacturing incompetence. If that was partly true in years gone by it is no longer the

## Colourful questions

*From Dr J. C. E. Jennings*

Sir, The rainbow is indeed of eternal interest. But Professor Brooke (September 24) errs in deducing the features he mentions as "an eternal problem". The geometrical-optical problem is elucidated in many textbooks. The theory depends on the laws of reflection and refraction, on an understanding of the composite nature of sunlight and on knowledge of the differential calculus. As the last two were among Newton's discoveries, and the others well

## Expectations when institutions fail

*From Mr Edmund Dell*  
Sir, If a country has to start worrying about its institutions of government, it is a sign that there are more important and worrying problems elsewhere. Some countries have been fortunate to have their institutions of government, however imperfect, carried along by economic success.

This has not been true in the UK and this fact both inspires proposals for improving our institutions and, less helpfully, leads to exaggerated claims for those proposals.

The merit of proposals for improving our institutions is not increased by attributing to them exaggerated expectations. This, I fear, is what Sir John Hoskyns has done. Some of his proposals deserve serious consideration. They will not get it if he claims for them so much more than is actually credible as solutions for the perennial problems of the British economy.

Take, for example, the proposal that the Prime Minister should be able to select Ministers from a wider pool (not necessarily businessmen) than is constituted by members of Parliament. It is no answer to say that this has sometimes been tried and has failed. It is less than half an answer to say that such outsiders can be appointed to the House of Lords.

In France, outsiders have been appointed Ministers, have at subsequent general elections won seats in the National Assembly and have even become Prime Minister. Why in this country should anyone prepared to accept senior political responsibilities, and capable of carrying them, accept also the fixed limit to their ambitions (and consequently to their influence in Cabinet) that membership of the House of Lords implies? Better be Chairman of ICI.

I apologise, of course, for any attempt to learn from foreign experience, which also is not invariably happy. Let us take a British example. Lord Carrington, a successful Foreign Secretary, was prohibited from speaking and answering questions in the House of Commons. What possible justification can there be for this situation other than outworn tradition?

Why should not the Prime Minister be entitled to appoint Law Officers from outside the Commons and why should they not be permitted to speak and answer questions at the dispatch box in the House of Commons?

Collective responsibility is a myth which no Prime Minister has abandoned in practice more completely than the present one, and with good reason. It leads to a bureaucracy of Cabinet and official decisions which stifles decision making, and tends to substitute political compromise, often ignorant political compromise, for decisions made on merit.

One does not need to attribute miraculous curative powers to these proposals to see that they have sense. Perhaps it is because they have sense that they are part of the political practice of other democratic countries.

Yours faithfully, EDMUND DELL, 4 Reynolds Close, NW11, September 30.

*From Mr Jamie Stevenson*  
Sir, Your Hoskyns leader (September 30) mystified me. Did we read the same lecture? My copy talked above all about "radical thinking", defined as "going to the root" of problems and thinking out positive solutions. The suggestion of importing businessmen into Westminster and Whitehall, which you set up as the main "straw-man" to knock down, was certainly on the Hoskyns menu but only as a part of the means and certainly not as the keynote.

First of all, Hoskyns never talked about "mediocre civil servants", but rather about "mediocre thinking" - thinking induced by a system of political careerism, opinion management and damage-limitation which trained them to direct their high brainpower towards "making ministers look better than they really are". How true, how true - and you of all people should know that from bitter journalistic experience.

Hoskyns was calling essentially for a more rigorous exposure of those problems to positive, lateral thinking. Certainly he underestimates the subtleties of democratic politics and constituencies. I am with you there, but in your anxiety to discredit his ideas on outsiders (incidentally, who said that Ted Heath's imported businessmen lost him the 1974 election, as you imply in a whopping post hoc, *propter hoc* logical fallacy?) you miss the most interesting ironic twist of the Hoskyns radical approach.

For the "closed shop" of the Commons comes in for scathing attack as the basic constraint upon the talent pool available to run the Government. You concentrate exclusively on his outsiders' solution. Yet "the constituency parties are... the initial (and only) head-hunters for Cabinet material". Hoskyns continues. What price regular reselection in Conservative constituencies to keep the talent pool on its toes?

In your cautious carping at Hoskyns's less immediately practicable proposals, you demonstrate with clarity the justice of his attack on "sound" thinking. "We tried that in 1974 and it didn't work" was one example he cited of a favourite defensive Whitehall line. He could as easily have been talking of the leader columns in *The Times*.

JAMIE STEVENSON, 13 Fitzwilliam Road, SW4, September 30.

## Pricing gas

*From Sir Ian Morrow*

Sir, British Gas has a turnover of nearly £6bn and has built up net assets of £1.2bn (at current costs) and could, out of its deposits and investments, pay off all its capital liabilities. It has now for all practical purposes no external capital or borrowings. This great corporation has been financed entirely out of retained cash.

This achievement, unusual outside the Opec countries, surely indicates British Gas Corporation has pursued a high selling price policy.

Yours faithfully, IAN MORROW, 41 Bishopsgate, EC2, September 22.

## Invalided in

*From Mr Patrick Howarth*

Sir, In your report (September 28) on letters about cricket you state that Sir John Squire's team, the Invalids, played between the wars. In fact they played for long after the Second World War.

In the summer of 1945, soon after the war with Germany had ended, I persuaded Sir John Squire to captain a team to play against the village of Fordcombe, in Kent. It was known as the Markham Arms XI, the Markham Arms in Chelsea being a pub which most of the team, Sir John and myself included, then frequented.

Two more matches were played that summer against Meopham, also in Kent. For the second of these the team was, I believe, known as Sir John Squire's XI. It certainly included Mr Percy Fender and his daughter, for I have a vivid recollection of fielding at short leg to Mr Fender's bowling.

There was, it seemed to me, no way of judging the direction in which the ball would take off on touching the ground, either before or after making contact with a bat. The opposing batsmen, I soon discovered, shared my bewilderment.

Not long afterwards the team reverted to its earlier name of the Invalids, Sir John himself remaining as enthusiastic and ineffectual as ever, whether batting, bowling or fielding.

Yours faithfully, PATRICK HOWARTH, Special Forces Club, 8 Herbert Crescent, SW1.

## Too close for comfort

*From Mr F. S. Davidson*

Sir, Local authorities do try to cater for their ratepayers' smallest needs. In the Hertford offices of this council there is a notice which reads: "Bus passes through tearoom." I am, Sir, your obedient servant, F. S. DAVIDSON, Industrial Development Officer, Breckland District Council, The Guildhall, East Dereham, Norfolk.







# Naturally Harrods

## Enter a Naturally British World at Harrods

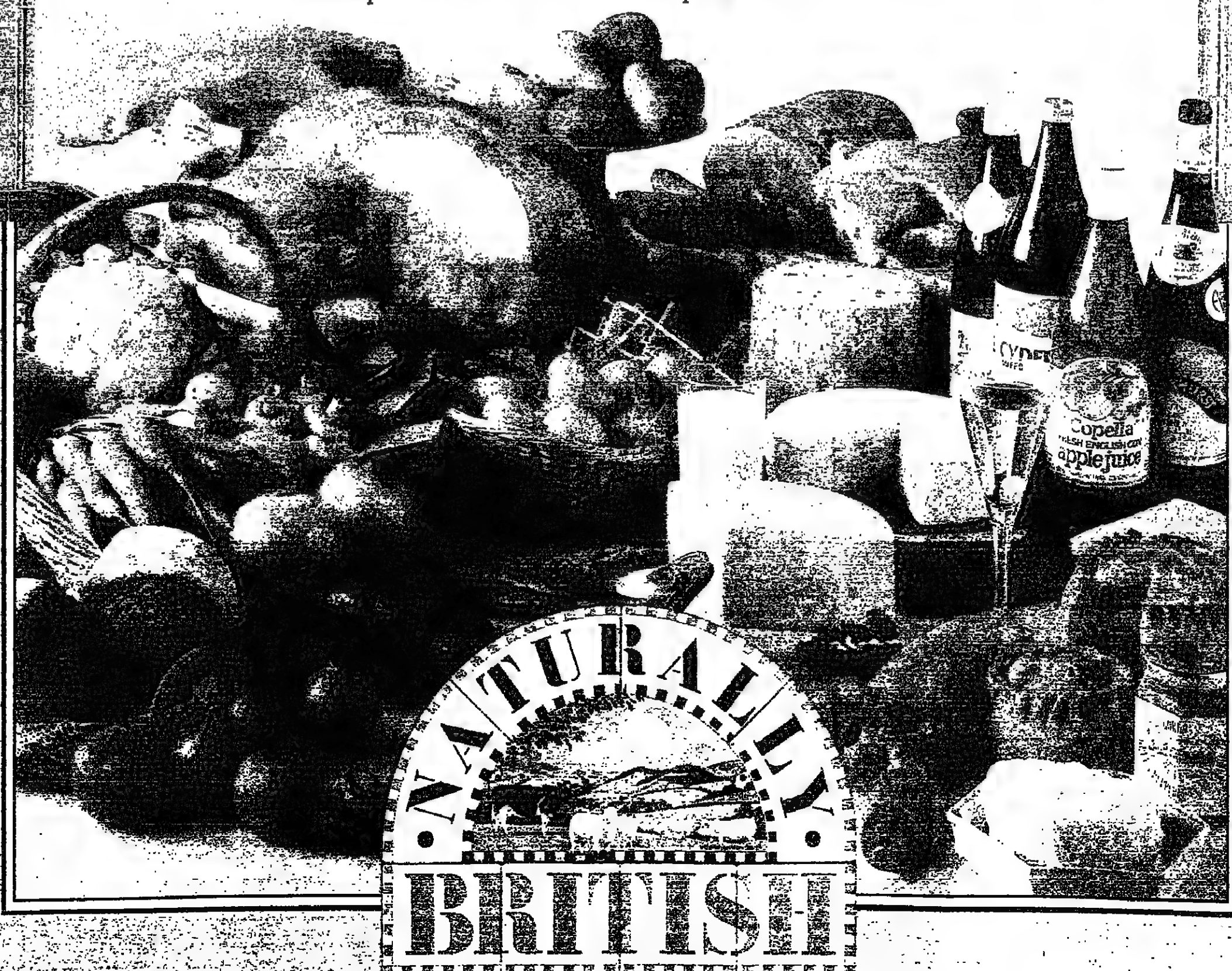
Our magnificent new Food Halls are now open. During renovations, many features of the original Food Halls were revealed and have been fully restored to their former splendour. We can now offer a greater range of food in a much more spacious and comfortable shopping environment.

To celebrate the occasion, from now until October 22nd, we are naturally featuring superb displays of top-quality "Naturally British" produce, in the best Harrods tradition, in every section of the Food Halls - the first such event to be organised in conjunction with Food From Britain.

Fresh meat, vegetables, fruit, dairy products and fresh fish on the ground floor: the finest grocery and health foods in the Pantry, now located on the lower ground floor.

Food experts will be on hand to demonstrate the culinary arts, and there will be opportunities to sample a selection of some of the fine British produce on display.

In addition, there's an easy-to-enter Harrods and Naturally British Competition with £10,000 in prizes. The first prize is one week for life in a luxury apartment at the beautiful Brantridge Park Timeshare development in Sussex. Look for the special leaflets for more details.





## SPECTRUM

Albert Finney, John Huston and Jacqueline Bisset are among the team in a small Mexican town making the long awaited cinema version of *Under the Volcano*, Malcolm Lowry's celebrated novel – a project which has defeated the ambitions of many great directors and actors. From the set, Ivor Davis traces the story of a production on which many hopes are pinned. Below, Melinda Camber Porter talks to Finney about his portrayal of the doomed British consul at the centre of an epic tragedy

# On top of the volcano

Yauatepec, Mexico

It is twilight in the plaza of this tiny Mexican town, 35 miles from Cuernavaca. The Day of the Dead, that uniquely Mexican holiday which is part Lenten Carnival, part Halloween, is drawing to a close. A raggle-taggle band of slightly off-key musicians is leading the annual procession of skeletons, ghosts and red-cloaked devils bearing flaming torches through the narrow streets and into the square.

Four nightmarish monks wearing full masks and wild straw wigs, a small black coffin borne on their shoulders, lurch behind the tin-tuned competers. As the procession reaches the centre of the square, a small boy in skeleton mask pops out, jack-in-the-box style, and begins conducting the band, while children dance alongside in time to the music.

Enter, from another corner of the square, Albert Finney dressed in a baggy Thirties-style suit and shoes worn without socks. His bearing is exaggeratedly erect; shoulders back, chest thrust forward, gait just a mite unsteady. He is followed by a mangy street dog.

Finney stops, briefly addresses the dog and then ambles over to the vine-hung facade of the Hotel Bella Vista, which he enters in the company of a group of elegantly dressed gentlemen in wing collars, and ladies in bias-cut gowns and marcelled hairdos. A banner slung across the street proclaims: "Gran Baile Noviembre 1933: Beneficio de la Cruz Roja".

Afficionados of Malcolm Lowry's powerful novel *Under the Volcano* will recognize the figure of the former British consul Geoffrey Firman, holding himself painfully together while permanently soaked in alcohol, maintaining, with the greatest of difficulty, the illusion that his life is not all anger, pain, sadness and waste.

Here in Yauatepec a team including the director John Huston, the veteran cinematographer Gabriel Figueroa and actors Albert Finney, Jacqueline Bisset and Anthony Andrews are recreating the story, set in Mexico in the late

Thirties, while the world outside was falling apart.

Long admired for its blend of rich symbolism, humanitarianism, humour and profound melancholy, it has defeated many a film-maker since its publication in 1974. Only a partial list of those who have tried and failed to make it work for the screen would include the directors Luis Buñuel, Jules Dassin and Joseph Losey and the authors Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Ronald Harewood, Richard Burton, Jack Nicholson and the late Robert Shaw are among the actors who have wanted to play the consul.

The plaza in Yauatepec, with its ferris wheel and carnival rides – imported for the film, to the delight of the town's children, who can ride them free – and elegant hotel facade, hastily constructed across the front of a broken-down old hostelry, seems so much an



Huston: gnarled but grand

illusion that the people who have created it still cannot quite believe that they are here.

John Huston, gnarled grand old man of the American cinema, sits in a white golf cart from which he rarely stirs, his eyes focused keenly on its tiny video screen which monitors the images recorded by the camera. At 77, he is a shadow of a figure once so imposing; his legs are elongated and thinned out like a stork's, his chest is hollow, his belly droops. But the eyes still have wit and intelligence, and age has enforced a calm sobriety.

His assistant barks orders to the cast and crew. Around Huston are no fewer than three producers (one Irish, two German) and an intense young screenwriter whose eyes dart from Huston's to the video screen, to the set and back, soaking up the experience of his first assignment.

One of the producers, a lean, bearded man dressed all in white, is called Wieland Schulz-Keil. He is the reason that they are all here. A writer and philosopher, he read Lowry's book at 18, and four years ago hired a lawyer to begin the complex business of acquiring the rights.

"I got them in February last and paid \$350,000 for them," he says. "But because of a complicated system instituted by the agent for Lowry's widow, each purchaser had to pay the full price for the rights every time they changed hands, rather than just option money."

Schulz-Keil took the rights to Huston, who had already by his own count seen some 150 different script versions of the book over the years.

Huston brought in a young Irish executive producer, Michael Fitzgerald, with whom he had made the prize-winning *Wiseblood*, from Flannery O'Connor's short story, in 1979. Sitting on the mock verandah of the mock Hotel Bella Vista, Fitzgerald – son of the poet and classical translator Robert Fitzgerald – washed the dust out of his throat with an *agua mineral* and explained: "John and I had been working on another film, which fell apart just as Wieland came to us with *Under the Volcano*. It was ideal Huston material. Nobody knows Mexico and Mexican culture like John. He's been here since the Twenties."

Schulz-Keil went off to find the money. With Huston's reputation, a renowned novel and a tight budget – some \$4m – it should have been easy. It was not. Everyone turned him down flat.

"No one would back Huston," Schulz-Keil recalls. "I was told he was too old, he'd had too many flops. I couldn't believe it. Here was one of the

legends and we couldn't raise a nickel on his name."

For Schulz-Keil the irony reached its height at the American Film Institute's grandiose tribute to Huston in Hollywood. "All the moguls who had been turning me down were up there singing his praises. It was quite disgusting. By the end of the evening I was so angry I actually physically attacked a couple of film executives as they left the hotel."

But the event was not a complete waste. The new head of the Mexican Film Commission, Alberto Isaac, was a guest. The name Huston still means something in Mexico and Isaac committed \$1.5m of his government's money. Universal Classics came up with another \$1m and Schulz-Keil rounded up the rest. Only the script remained to be completed.

In 1979 Guy Gallo was a young undergraduate at Harvard when he read *Under the Volcano*. "I'd picked up the *New York Times Magazine* survey of the favourite books of well-known writers. *Under the Volcano* was on everybody's list. I did two critical papers on it and later as a graduate student at Yale Drama school wrote a screenplay of it, just as an exercise."

Fitzgerald, whose father had taught Gallo at Harvard, called him on a different project and asked for some samples of his writing. Gallo mentioned the Lowry script, and sent it for inspection. Fitzgerald handed it on to Huston, with the result that the veteran director and the novice scriptwriter spent four months in Puerto Vallarta, chiselling away at five or six rewrites, each version sparer and more economical than the last.

Eventually there was a finished product. "I had read Lowry's letter to his agent after he and his wife did a screenplay for *Tender is the Night*," Gallo says. "He wrote: 'I've left out enough for a Puccini opera'. In that case, I've left out enough for two."

The moguls who ran from it obviously feared a slow, ponderous atmosphere piece. Those fears, Fitzgerald says, were groundless. "It may be melancholy, but it moves at a very

fast pace. It doesn't brood along. To some extent it's a love story. There are many, many elements that should be recognizable even to the monsters who control Hollywood."

There is no mistaking the attentive air which envelops the set. "A number of people here have wanted to do this for a decade or more," Gallo explains. Like the rest of the team, he appears to be completely immersed in every minute detail of the picture, leading the film's star Albert Finney to remark, somewhat cynically, "There do seem to be rather a lot of people on the bridge for such an intimate film, don't there?"

For Finney, this may be the chance to show that he really belongs up there in the Olivier/Richardson/Guinness first division. "Albert wanted to work with John again, but on a real Huston movie," says Fitzgerald. "Annie was just showbiz. John thinks it's the best performance he's ever had anything to do with." Anthony Andrews, Finney's co-star, agrees: "If Albert gets this even half right, it'll put him right back at the top of the pile."

For Andrews this is his first big-screen American film with a "name" director. His acting triumphs on television – *Brideshead Revisited*, *Danger LXB* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* – have given him an enviable reputation. Now all he needs is the clout to get major movie roles.

For Jacqueline Bisset, playing the consul's long-suffering wife, it is a chance to redeem herself after a series of expensive and exploitative flops, to prove that underneath the beauty and flip intelligence of this international star there really is an actress.

The fate of them all, however, hangs on Huston. Will *Volcano* the film mark a return to the greatness of yore? The third member of the production triumvirate, Moritz Borman, says: "We're not making *ET* here. We're all waiting for something great. That's why there's such an air of concentration and excitement. We know this could be another *Sierra Madre*, another *African Queen*."

## Finney: anguish in Eden

"You can't say 'My God, this film is profound and intensely personal and other-worldly'. It is. But it's the same if you play King Lear or Hamlet. I don't think like that you can never do it," says Albert Finney, reflecting on the weighty task he has undertaken.

*Under the Volcano* has attracted many screenwriters, and John Huston has searched for a version which would clean away the heavy symbolism and reveal the narrative. On the Day of the Dead in the town of Quauahuac, Geoffrey Firman, a former British Consul, prays for the return of his wife, Yvonne, who has left him, ostensibly because of his severe alcoholic habit. The Consul also receives a "visitation" from Hugh, his half-brother, who has become engaged to Yvonne. The Return of the Dead, which is being celebrated with pagan insouciance by the religious Mexicans, is experienced by the Consul with the agonising consciousness of a man bereft of religious certainty and the hope of redemption.

"At the end of this one day, the Consul meets his death, at the hands of the Nazi-financed Mexican police. As John Huston points out, 'Wouldn't God have a drink, if he took a good look at the world he created?' For both Huston and Finney, the film is not a case-history of an alcoholic but rather an exploration of a sensitive and heroic individual's search for belonging in the world. I asked Huston whether he had discussed his intentions fully with Finney, since Huston is renowned for his solely practical, down-to-earth guidance of actors, and brushes off metaphysics with a twinkling smile or a wry joke.

"Actually, yes. It was important that Finney and I discussed the significance of the book. So long as the Consul comes out heroic and true, that's all that matters. I believe that we do feel the same way about the character, more or less. In fact, we had a rather long session, and I don't normally do that with actors. Once I've made a decision in the casting I tend to leave it up to the actor, and I just tell them when they're going a little wrong on the set."

It seems, in practice, that it is up to Finney to make the final decision as to the emotional and metaphysical significance of the Consul's experience. I asked him if he felt any affinity with the



Finney: why self-portrait

"In no way have I ever been as self-destructive as the Consul. If I were to make my own experience to the state of the Consul, I would say that my depression and highs are like mounds and gulches compared to his mountain peaks. And therefore all I can try to do is extend imaginatively my own experience up and down and try to chart the extremes that are his."

As Finney underlines the essential differences between himself and the Consul, a very self-portrait begins to emerge: "In fact, there were times when I was a young actor, and this is not news: when I came to call it the Barrymore syndrome – I thought, in order to be admired I had to drink a bit. And that it was romantic. It was the self-destructive urge that was romantic, and I imagined women would flutter around me to save me, you know? I mean, I might have little excursions into gulches where I got a bit far that way. But it wasn't destined to be my road through life. And so I realized that I would have to get out, as an older actor. No one would be saying 'Oh, if only he hadn't become an alcoholic, he would have been the greatest ever'."

Finney suggests: "The alcohol gives the Consul a degree of objectivity and heightened consciousness. It's the way actors have – a common example – your father dies and you're sad, and

you're also watching half of yourself being sad about your father dying. It's not just actors who have that. But an actor is more aware of seeing well. It'll use that one day, and it's not callous. Because one is still moved, one is still desperate and unhappy. But you're also recording it."

On set, and in the hotel gardens at Cuernavaca, playing tennis or entertaining a dinner table with his anecdotes, Finney maintains an inner core of concentration. Even at his witziest and most outgoing, one feels he is within himself, meditating on the role. "When I'm acting I can't be aware of metaphysics as such. I feel from time to time 'maybe' allow some deep thoughts to go through my head. This is what often creates a sense of irony. The metaphysical side, I think, hopefully, is in the rest of the film. I mean it would be marvelous if what is captured is something sort of strange and elusive but almost unspoken behind and underneath the narrative that goes forward. Underneath this, impossible love story, and underneath these impossible relationships. And that is up to everybody, not just John."

"One even speculated 'Oh, this is a great role. One's got to keep it tight and just hold it and laugh about it. These things can't do that. They inevitably cannot sustain a story, the tragic machine. They just have to go on. That's why it's such a job. It's something that has to be done. And yet it happens so simple and Lear and all the others, they're all in it, something which inevitably leads to death. And that's the tragedy. It's talking about a character who does not clear it up or see the light or become simple. Lear, from being a barbaric, autocratic fascist, becomes a human being, through tremendous pain and experience. But he does become a human being. He becomes simple. He becomes a man. And this guy Firman doesn't, actually – that does happen to him. He does stand up for Yvonne's letter. As he's dying he has faith in her letter, and her love. Maybe that, in a way, is the optimistic note. That's the clarifying, pure sound in the last movement of the piece. The characters in *Under the Volcano* can't stop this final, tragic movement towards death. It sounds easy to us. Doesn't it?"

moreover... Miles Kingston

## Ripest reading yet

Time once again for the final stages of the Moreover Book Prize which is given every year to the novel which, in the opinion of the judges, was the most exciting, good read. The winner gets an evening out with Barry Norman and a chance to autograph his or her novel for the judges.

The panel of judges this year consists of Antonia Person, the novelist; Roddy Noyes, who edited the *Tatler* in the three days after Tina Brown left and before Libby Purves arrived; Reg Varlet, manager of W. H. Smith's bookshop at The Port; Scratching's motorway service area; VIV Cabriolet, the finest racing driver; and the distinguished Liverpool poet, Rod Skews. They have narrowed their short-list down to the following four standing novels.

A Man Like Meili by Cressida Waller. Judy is a disillusioned calendar model who, although her picture hangs semi-nude in every garage in the Western world and has done for about seven years, feels frustrated by her role in life. She meets Rand Sabra, a mysterious figure whose aim in life is to write the great Indian novel of failing that, to open a restaurant in Westbourne Grove. His problem is that he has never been in India. When Judy is offered a modelling job for six months in the south of India, she is tempted to say no, but Rand wants her to accept so that he can go with her. Eventually they compromise: he goes instead of her and dresses in women's clothes which gives him a curious feeling of fulfilment he has never known before. Meanwhile, Judy meets and marries Ralph, a dwarf peace-marcher who claims to have built his own cruise missile in his Essex back garden and to have it trained on Washington. The novel ranges powerfully over the dissolution of life as we know it and includes some tantalizing Indian recipes.

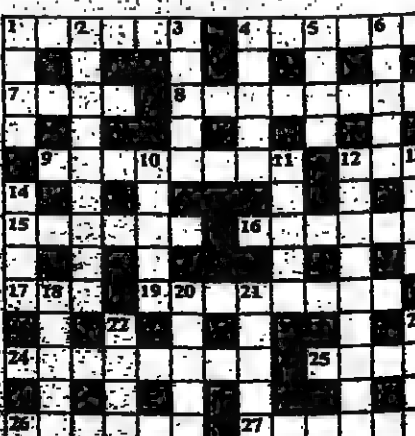
A Bed to Nowhere by J. R. M. Kinn. Set in medieval Albania, this powerful and disturbing novel traces the fortunes of Prezb, a wandering cat-trainer. Prezb's strange powers over the cats, who will dance intricate patterns to his command, seem to suggest a link between man and the animal kingdom which has vanished today; also, if the tricks fail he can always eat the cats. Summoned to the Royal Palace in Tirana to perform for the king, he unfortunately finds himself blown off-course in his ship and lands on a desolate part of the Welsh coastline, where he meets and falls in love with Blodwen, a saint who does miracles but only in the dark. She turns him into an cat.

The Midnight Pumpkins by Arlen Eudora. An enormous novel set in ancient Greece, it deals with the encounter between the philosopher Polyphides and a migrant Indian scribbler who wants to write the ultimate Indian three-act tragedy. They both meet and fall in love with Baldwin, a Welsh slave girl who has been given her freedom and now runs a rather smart boutique in downtown Athens. Unbeknownst to each other, they both marry her. The author seems to be saying that East can meet West through the Celtic twilight on the other hand, he may just be treating bigamy as a social problem.

The Siberian Delicatessen by Yakmar Schildkraut. This long but pungent novel is set in a disused railway station on the Trans-Siberian Railway Line where two dwarf brothers build up a thriving business dealing express trains and then selling first-aid kits to the passengers. Into their lives comes Shidi, an Indian salesman who is obsessed with writing a railway travel book like Paul Theroux's but with more technical detail about the insides of engines. He proposes to the two dwarfs that they should open a small take-away Indian food stall but, angered because he is bigger and browner than they, they throw him into Lake Virkutsk, where he is eaten by bears. Or is he? Schildkraut is very good on the technical side of rail crashes, and the fact that the dwarfs speak throughout in Siberian dialect has its own kind of magic.

The winner will be announced next week by Sir Hugo French, deputy export manager of Moreover Enterprises Ltd.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 167)



- ACROSS: 1 Revolve (6); 2 Very good (6); 3 Head double (4); 4 Adventure (8); 5 Awaiting list (8); 6 Russian (3); 7 Supporter (6); 8 Shilling's son (6); 9 Witty remarks (8); 10 Cause of change (8); 11 Wood knot (4); 12 Irritability (6); 13 Refler far (6); 14 Consideration (6).
- DOWN: 1 Log platform (4); 2 Supreme (6); 3 Communist (9); 4 Clear (5); 5 Bushy (5); 6 Grumpy (4); 7 Final stanza (5); 8 Innocently (6); 9 Creditors (5); 10 Bullock (5); 11 At person (2,7); 12 Daybreak (4); 13 European (6); 14 Merganser (4); 15 Effortful throw (5); 16 Fee giver (5); 17 Barbarians (5); 18 Light holder (4); 19 Court command (4).

SOLUTION TO No 166  
ACROSS: 1 Wampum 5 Dope 8 Heart 9 Marmite 11 Scheming 13 Sign 15 Ayalotah 16 Wipe 19 Star Wars 22 Parvatu 23 Bole 24 Kilt 25 Blagoe  
DOWN: 2 Awash 3 Pit 4 Moment of truth 5 Dunk 6 Peckish 7 Chase 10 Ernie 12 Most 14 Blur 15 Aspirin 16 Swap 17 Askew 20 Atoll 21 Best 23 Bog



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JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY

Dressed to kill... or resurrect

I can remember Jean Muir when she was Jane and Jane. I worked for her as a house model, when I was 18, on the third floor of a tall building in Great Portland Street. Sometimes I sewed on labels and packed dresses, sometimes ran errands, and even occasionally manned the switchboard. (Although it was not a complicated machine, I feared it, and once cut off the editor of American Vogue calling from New York.) Mostly I showed the collection to buyers from large stores, or stood while dresses were fitted on me. On Thursday, I had the chance to scrutinize some of her new range for men: cashmere jerseys, loose and wide-necked, dressing-gowns to summon the Master himself back from the dead, and some more trousers to make you suck your teeth. Once, several years ago, I saw a white silk jersey shirt on the Hampstead Theatre stage. It was travelling about on the body of Tom Conti (there! black hair and white shirt again) and the play was Don



corn tiger-striped with moonlight to khaki sedge with string undertones. For the first time in years my hair is its real colour and two people have said how much younger I look. Now I only have the Terror of the Dwindling Lips to contend with. They haven't started yet, but I am already drawing Joan Crawford sized cupid's bows up to my nostrils. My grandmother said that as you get older, your ears and nose get bigger and your mouth smaller and thinner. I want so much to be a movie star before I turn into an elephant.

kindness. Suddenly I have a flashback to my sister and me walking past a shockingly overgrown garden in the village. We stood and looked over the hedge. "What a mess!" "I'd cut all those down." "Eugh! What a rotten gardener!" "How frightful!" "Poor flowers!" and so forth. A figure rose up from a crouching position behind the hedge, three feet from our noses, clutching a handful of weeds. We walked away with measured tread, not daring to look at each other. I wonder how many more unseen victims await me.

Although my telephone number is ex-directory, I often converse with perfect strangers. This is because I am suffering from Crossed Lines. Like jury duty, your turn comes round, and you must grin and bear it until it passes. The record this week is three different dialled interruptions in a five-and-a-half-minute call. Some people are very civil ("I'm SO sorry..."). "No no, my fault!" "Good luck next time!" a chummy Blitz spirit; others are less so. "There's someone listening in, Reggie." ("Me?") "In SO sorry..." (Him!) "Get off the line please." (Reggie!) "Bloody cheek!" It's been like this for weeks, my time must nearly be up. One morning, there were two women on the telephone; every time I picked up the receiver, they were going on and on. Sometimes they'd say "...it's her again" and stop talking until I put the receiver back. I stopped trying after quarter of an hour and wrote a letter instead.

Three brawny Geordie lads, working on the burnt-out C&A in the High Street, fell in behind me as I came out of the bank. "In! she lovely!" "Hello lass!" "Ooah, she's a real cracker!" I turned to smile at them (for I was very flattered) and stumbled on the pavement. "Send us a postcard on your next trip," they belted.

Have had Doris/Lucille hair toned down for the winter, from sun-kissed



them as if they were priceless. "Now I would like my niece to see some good stones," she said. Two security guards were summoned, and we went into a little dark velvet room. A case was unlocked and a giant emerald ring taken out. I tried it on. It covered completely the first joint of my fourth finger, a single square-cut stone of an unforgettable brilliant green. We all looked at it for a bit, tilting it this way and that, and then it went back into its box. I have wrestled ever since with a guilty passion for emeralds. The best of both worlds is to revel in their beauty knowing that on Tuesday night they will help to raise thousands of pounds towards research into the causes of a crippling disease.

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Glenys Kinnock: "She thinks that too much publicity is bad for the children"

Debut of the Brighton belle

"Glen, Glen, come on." Finding himself ignored, Neil Kinnock plunged into the crowd of his wife's admirers and, one hand resting tenderly against the small of her back, propelled her towards the lift of Brighton's Metropole Hotel. The Kinnocks had just signed the register to the sound of popping flashbulbs. Seeing familiar faces in the crowded foyer, Glenys Kinnock, looking newly minted in a toast-coloured dress and glossy boots, could have stayed chatting for ever. Neil Kinnock, looking a bit tossed about in crumpled grey, clearly wanted to go to his room. As the lift door closed, the photographers packed up their cameras. "Those dimples, that skin, the light in her eyes..." they murmured happily. Whatever happened the following evening, they'd already found their own Dream Ticket - Glenys.

Top political wives usually make feel uncomfortable. They seem to come in two varieties: the professional helpmeet with a permanent rictus who pushes her children towards the TV cameras, and the hostile background figure whose thuddery expression signifies that it's nothing to do with her that her

husband chooses to make a fool of himself.

Glenys Kinnock doesn't fall into either of these categories. After tagging around after her for a whole weekend, I realized that here was a wonderfully sorted out woman. In the first place, she was obviously not going to let her husband's job take her over. The conference might last a week, but she had taken just two days off from her job as a reading teacher in Brent. Other years, she hasn't attended the conference at all. Today, she'll be back at work, returning home afterwards to Ealing and to her two children, Steven and Rachel.

It's only in the last year that her husband has persuaded her to have some help in cleaning the house and they now have someone coming in for four hours a week. Glenys seems very good at delegating: her husband cleans out the fridge and 11-year-old Rachel does the voice-over on the Kinnocks' telephone-answering machine.

This woman, who manages to sustain a close, loving family life, a full-time job and the ability to juggle things around to be at her husband's side when he needs her, could be a

refreshing example to other political wives. As a group, these are women who always seem under pressure to give up any thought of leading a life of their own. Watching Glenys might give them the courage to tell their husbands' constituency associations that they certainly don't have the right to demand two for the price of one.

Patricia Hewitt, Neil Kinnock's sparky new press assistant, said that Glenys wouldn't be giving any interviews until all the conference hoo-hah had died down. "She thinks that too much publicity is bad for the children," said Patricia shrewdly, knowing that no one was likely to complain about Glenys' non-availability if the reason for it was such a noble one.

The time had come for the Kinnocks to leave the hotel room to hear the result of the leadership vote. For this Glenys had changed into a coral red dress and high-heeled, open-toed red shoes. The wisdom of this choice emerged an hour later when Glenys, on her way to the platform to join her victorious husband, had a particularly hideous bouquet thrust into her arms. Under the crackly cellophane were arranged

layers of blowy roses in various clashing reds. Against a dress of any other colour, the flowers would have looked grotesque. Next to the coral, they more or less blended into the background.

Had the presentation of the bouquet been previously rehearsed so that Glenys could dress appropriately? I doubt it. Nothing else that took place in the shambles of that first conference sitting had been.

During a nasty moment when some female delegates got into a shouting match with the conference chairman, Sam McCuskie, Glenys tactfully left her seat. I have been told that she spends a lot of time ironing out any traces of sexist language from her husband's speeches and hope very much that she'll have the time to do the same for Mr McCuskie, who cheerfully addresses full-grown women as "girls."

At the end of the evening, Mr Kinnock was asked how he felt about winning the leadership ballot so decisively. "Almost as good as the day I got married," he said. Here is a man with an excellent sense of priorities.

Penny Perrick

TALKBACK

Women at Oxford

From Joanna Hodge, Wolfson College, Oxford

Jacki Davis (Friday Page, Sept. 23) draws our attention to the second class status of women undergraduates at Oxford University. The argument must be extended to women postgraduates and junior faculty. Predominantly male faculties continue to insist that their failure to appoint women rests with the women candidates, and not with their own selection procedures. As a result the senior common rooms of the erstwhile women-only colleges are open to men, while those of the erstwhile men-only colleges are not so open to women. Women are half welcome as undergraduates, and less than welcome as postgraduates and colleagues.

From Martin Towell, 1 Fairview Road, Hungerford, Berkshire. It is said that after three years at Oxford, Jacki Davis in her embittered article reveals that she has not even learnt one of the basic tenets of life: men and women are different, not equal. What a pity she cannot accept that "women are a separate and dangerous species". Those of us who are men, relish that and adore those of the opposite sex who have the wisdom to realize they are indeed "a special category".

From Patricia Watson, 2 Hildwell Street, Oxford. Jacki Davis comments on the position of women undergraduates at formerly all-male Oxford colleges now commonly described as mixed. No college can be truly mixed unless there is some reasonable proportion of men and women not only in the junior, but also in the middle and upper common rooms. In the latter case the dispersion of age of the female dons would parallel that of the male dons.

This mixed community will ultimately be attainable with real goodwill and honest endeavour to raise the educational awareness, aspirations and opportunities of girls and women to that of boys and men throughout society in present and future generations.

More letters on Friday



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THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

A classic in cakes

110g (4oz) icing sugar  
Vanilla extract to taste  
For the boiled icing  
225g (8oz) caster sugar  
Pinch of cream of tartar  
1 egg white  
Vanilla extract to taste  
7 walnut halves to decorate

Prepare two or three deep, round cake tins by lining them with buttered greaseproof paper. Sift together the flour and baking powder and set it aside. Cream the butter in large bowl, then add the sugar and beat until the mixture is pale and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, then fold in the flour, followed by the chopped walnuts.

Divide the mixture equally between the prepared tins and bake the cakes in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) for 30 to 40 minutes, until they are well-risen and golden.

A warm skewer plunged into the centre of the cakes should come out clean when they are fully baked. Rest the cakes in their tins for five or 10 minutes before turning them on to a wire rack, removing the papers and allowing them to cool completely.

To make the butter cream, beat the butter until it is very light, then beat in the icing sugar and a little vanilla essence. Trim the tops of the cakes level and sandwich them together with a layer of the butter cream. Use the rest to smooth the sides on the cake.

An extra pair of hands is useful to make the icing. Put the sugar in a heavy-based pan with 4 tablespoons of water. On a low heat warm the mixture until the sugar dissolves completely. Add the cream of tartar mixed with a teaspoon of water and bring the syrup to the boil. Boil it until a sugar thermometer reads 240°F, or softball. At this temperature a small spoonful of the syrup, dropped into a bowl of cold water, quickly forms a malleable ball which can be picked up between the finger and thumb.

While the syrup is boiling, whisk the egg white until it holds stiff peaks. As soon as the syrup reaches softball, pour it on to the mixture in a thin, steady stream while whisking the mixture vigorously. Continue whisking the icing until it thickens and becomes opaque, then flavour it with vanilla. Immediately pour it over the cake and smooth it evenly down the sides with a knife dipped in hot water. Decorate the top with the walnut halves (six round the top and one in the centre) and leave the cake in a cool place for a few hours to allow the icing to dry a little and form a thin crust.

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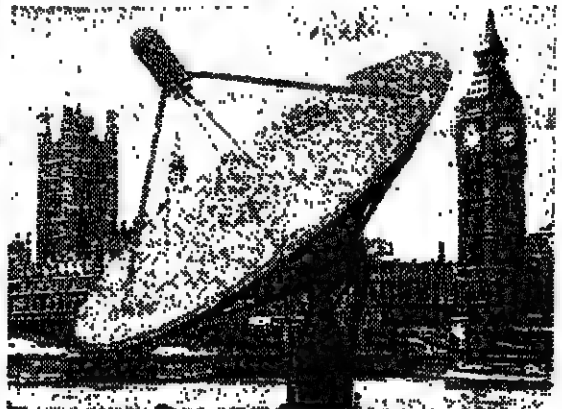
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ref 009







# Maureen oilfield

Britain's newest North Sea field is in production. Oil is pouring into the seabed storage tanks and the first lifting will leave the platform in mid-October.

As the North Sea oil industry enters its second development phase, encouraged by recent tax concessions, the Maureen platform is regarded by some as the last of the breed of massive offshore structures and, more accurately by others, as the first of the new breed of high technology production facilities.

The new oilfields will be smaller, geologically more complex, and proportionately more costly to develop. The lessons learnt in building the Maureen platform will help make these fields potentially profitable.

The previous tax structure forced the Phillips design team to look for ways of bringing the Maureen field into production with a minimum outlay and the £700m final bill compares favourably with investment by other companies in fields with the same production rates of around 70,000 barrels a day.

Cost savings were achieved at the design stage and by the decision to drill the production wells while construction of the platform jacket and its deck facilities went on in the two yards on the west coast of Scotland.

The Maureen project was innovative from the start. Advanced engineering was incorporated in the platform and in the single-point mooring buoy, the project team being spurred on by the need to keep within a budget set, some said, unrealistically low, because of the field's relatively small reserves and marginal development economics.

Although Maureen is Phillips' first oil field in the UK sector of the North Sea - its Hewett field in the southern North Sea is a gas field - the company's development of the Ekofisk complex in the Norwegian sector has made it probably the most successful and experienced of the North Sea operators.

Drawing on experience gained throughout the world,

the Phillips project team put together the engineering package that makes Maureen viable. Phillips' own engineering services group drew up the specifications. The structural and civil engineering team examined the North Sea site surveys, the oceanographic reports and the conceptual proposals put forward by the contractors. The metallurgists wrote the specification for the structural steel used, stipulated the welding procedures to be followed and assessed the contractors' proposals for corrosion protection.

The Phillips team also evaluated the contractors' process designs and made sure that all equipment supplied was up to specification. Chief process engineer Tel Perez said: "If a piece of equipment is supposed to handle 80,000 barrels of oil a day we check that it can actually do that."

With 84 per cent of the cost of Maureen being spent in the UK, the indirect employment effect is difficult to quantify, but with 60,000 people working in Scotland in the offshore supply industry a project such as the Maureen platform has a considerable effect on the economies of whole communities.

With so large an investment involved, the Phillips project team constantly monitor the work of contractors, to ensure that specifications are being met and are able to provide help and advice if a problem arises. Phillips project teams have been advising contractors on all types of equipment. In the case of the electrical equipment - there are 250 miles of cables on the platform - from turbine generators to the type of shaver socket fitted in the living quarters.

The effect on the economy does not end once the contracts have been paid for. The revenue to the exchequer can be considerable - latest figures show that the Government



C. J. "Pete" Silas, right, president and chief operating officer of Phillips Petroleum, arriving on the Maureen platform with L. M. Rickards, senior vice president of Phillips.

receives £300 every second of the day from North Sea oil taxation - although the recent Budget changes mean that fields such as Maureen can move from the "marginal" category to be potentially very profitable.

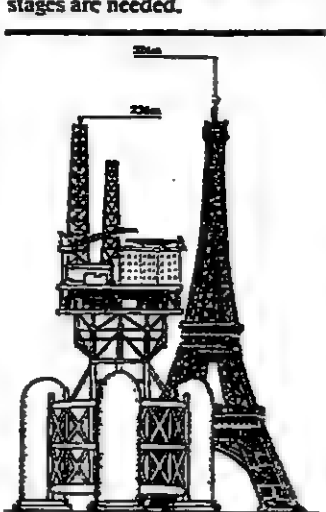
The effect of a project such as Maureen on UK industry as a whole can be fully realized only by a visit to a large North Sea production platform. The generating equipment, which could meet the needs of a large town such as Luton or Northampton alone provides several weeks work for the power industry. The steel used in the structure is equivalent to several months output for a medium-sized steelworks, and the other ancillary equipment comes from specialist engineering companies throughout the country.

For although it is a hotel, a heliport, an office block and a power station the Maureen platform is primarily a large factory designed to extract oil, process it and have it ready for dispatch by tanker.

Oil discharged from the production wells is collected in the production manifold on the platform's lower level, passed through coolers and then into separators where water and gas is taken off. The gas passes on the treatment at the gas system and the water to a waste disposal system. After treatment to remove salt, further cooling and final metering, the crude is pumped into the platform's three storage tanks before being pumped into tankers.

The gas process system is designed to treat the gas for use in the generating system and for

future gas-lift. The process pressurizes the gas and dries it. The platform has two gas compressors on the main deck. Each has four compression stages, although in the early life of the field only the first two stages are needed.



Total height of the platform including the flare stack is 772 feet, compared with the 1,063 feet of the Eiffel Tower.

The third main process system is the sea-water injection system on the lower deck. The system oxygenates and filters the sea-water to prevent corrosion of the downhole tubing. Sea-water will be injected into the field at a rate of 90,000 barrels a day at a pressure of 750 lb a square inch. Sea-water is also used to provide cooling and in the

utility systems and two sea-water distillation systems provide up to 50 tons of drinking water a day. Sea-water is also used in the platforms waste disposal system which ensures that no pollutants are dumped in the sea.

The use of the Brown and Root designed Hi-Deck system has meant that the Maureen platform packs all the platform facilities into an area about half the size of a football pitch, and when fully operational it will be run by a staff of about 100, again fewer than the staff on platforms of similar capacity.

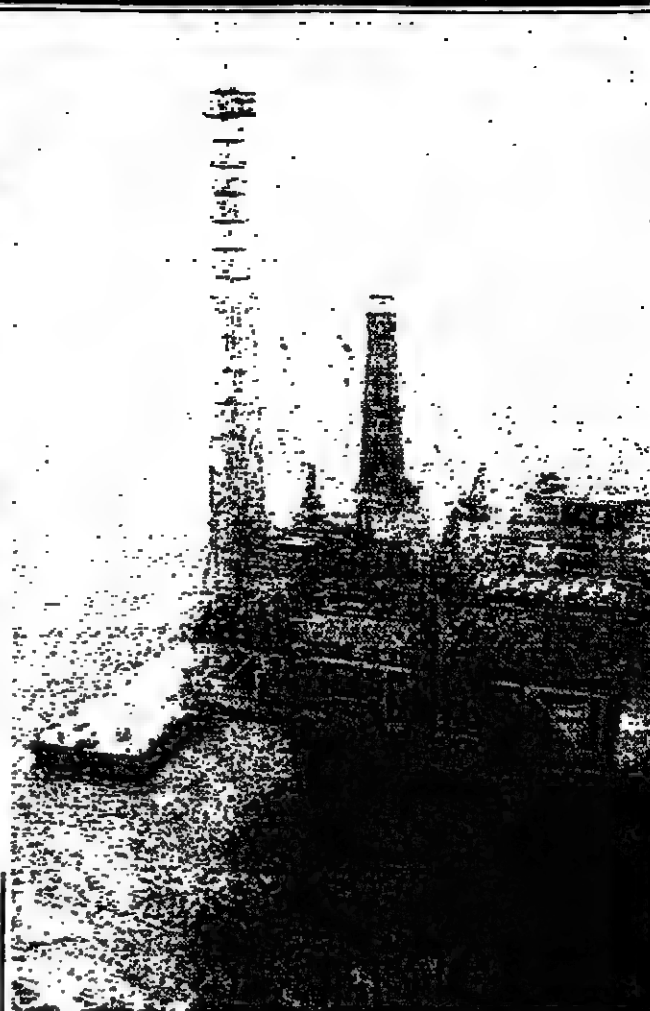
Overall responsibility for platform operations rests with the three offshore installation managers, who report to the operations manager.

A shift production supervisor is responsible for the operation of all process and utility systems and communications equipment. The duty safety officer is responsible for diving operations, while the shift maintenance supervisor is responsible for keeping production flowing.

To cater for the needs of the staff aboard the platform there is a 75-seat restaurant, a gymnasium, cinema, TV lounge, sauna and medical centre.

Rig safety is looked after by a complex system of detection equipment and a feature of the rig design is that its hollow legs are filled with water. In the event of fire this waterfill system would help to prevent the structure from damage by dissipating heat by natural convection.

David Young  
Energy Correspondent



The platform lies 163 miles north east of Aberdeen

## Keeping down the capital outlays

To spend £700m to save money is what the North Sea oil industry is about: the risks are high and the rewards can be enormous.

Admittedly, those rewards are subject to taxation, and despite the complaints of the oil industry leaders about taxation, Britain does provide a stable base for the oil business.

In 1973 when Phillips found oil 163 miles north east of Aberdeen with projected flow rates of around 70,000 barrels a day the company decided to proceed under three conditions: the flow rates would have to be confirmed, the British taxation structure would have to be encouraging and the field would have to be brought into production for a minimum outlay.

The first two factors were satisfied. As for the third, it was up to Phillips to find a way to keep down capital outlay.

The drilling offshore simultaneously with onshore production of the production platform is not new in the North Sea. What Phillips did that was new, was to ready the

wells for production by using a sea-bed template so that when the platform arrived on site it could be installed, hooked-up and into production in the minimum time.

Other North Sea platforms - Maureen and Mannus are regarded as the last of the North Sea leviathans - have arrived on site while production wells were still being drilled.

Template drilling is also not new in the North Sea, but Phillips took it to its ultimate development. Maureen is a true production platform. Drilling activity is limited to the hook-up process, which in turn keeps the operating costs down to a level which makes the field more attractive.

The platform jacket, the undersea templates and the platform deck are among the Maureen field's significant technical developments. Another is the single-point tanker mooring column.

Using the heavy lift crane barge Tog Mor, the 500 ton concrete sections of the single-point mooring column were stacked into place. The mooring

## Statistics

The sheer scale of North Sea investment tells its own story. The Maureen field's vital statistics are:

Discovered: 1973 in 314ft of water 163 miles north east of Aberdeen.

Development cost: £700m.

Drilling template: installed June 1979 and weighing 500 tons.

Loading column: installed July 1982, 430ft high (115ft above water), capable of loading 20,000 barrels an hour.

Hi-deck: loaded out February 1983, weighing 19,000 tons, 128ft high. Area 259ft by 249ft.

Platform base: loaded out November 1982, weighing 42,750 tons without ballast, 92,750 ballasted, 390ft high (70ft above water).

was then towed horizontally to the Raasay Sound, righted to the vertical position and fitted with its steel head deck before being towed to the field.

The use of a single point mooring platform with undersea storage facilities means that fields such as Maureen can be financially viable without having to be connected to one of the oil-gathering pipelines.

Ironically Phillips' decision to use tankers, single-point mooring and a storage platform is a return to first-base in North Sea procedure. However, Phillips have added the expertise in single-point mooring that they learned in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea where pipelines cannot be used because of depth and sea-bed problems. The result is that, provided that tankers stick to their schedule, oil can be pumped from Maureen at rates comparable with platforms connected to pipelines.

Ten years ago the flow rates from Maureen's exploration wells meant that the field was classed as "marginal". The cost of bringing up the oil and the type of oil involved - Maureen's is an especially light crude - meant that in the early '70s there was little prospect of profit.

Since then oil prices have softened in real terms and Phillips have had to strictly control costs to make sure that Maureen is viable.

The use of the hi-deck and other techniques incorporated at the design stage has helped. Labour costs are, in North Sea terms, not a major factor, but it is expensive to keep personnel on the platform and fly them between Aberdeen, Shetland and the platform. For that reason staff numbers at Maureen will be kept low, 200 during hook-up and 100 when production is on stream.

DY

# Ultramar

## BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Ultramar is a British oil company operating internationally in exploration, production, refining, shipping and marketing.

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As part of this programme, the capacity of the liquefied natural gas plant in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, has been doubled.

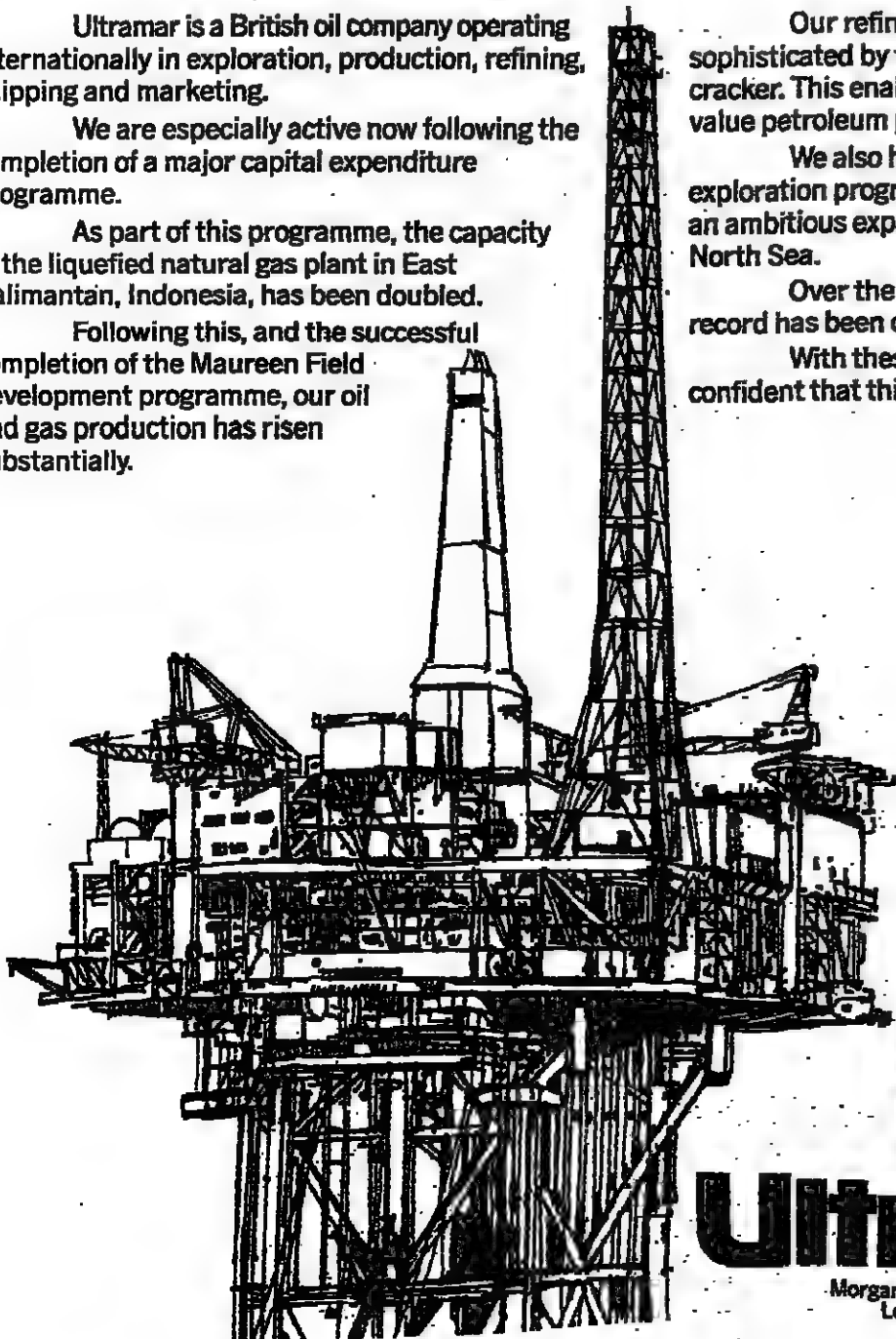
Following this, and the successful completion of the Maureen Field development programme, our oil and gas production has risen substantially.

Our refinery in Quebec has been sophisticated by the addition of a catalytic cracker. This enables it to produce higher value petroleum products.

We also have an extensive worldwide exploration programme underway, including an ambitious expansion of our activities in the North Sea.

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# Ultramar

Morgan House, 1 Angel Court  
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## Maureen's On Stream

From Discovery To First Oil  
February, 1973 - September, 1983



## THE MAUREEN OIL FIELD

is operated by

Phillips Petroleum Company United Kingdom Ltd  
in partnership with





**Sedgwick congratulates  
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and its partners on the  
first shipment from Maureen,  
a project with which  
we are proud to be associated**

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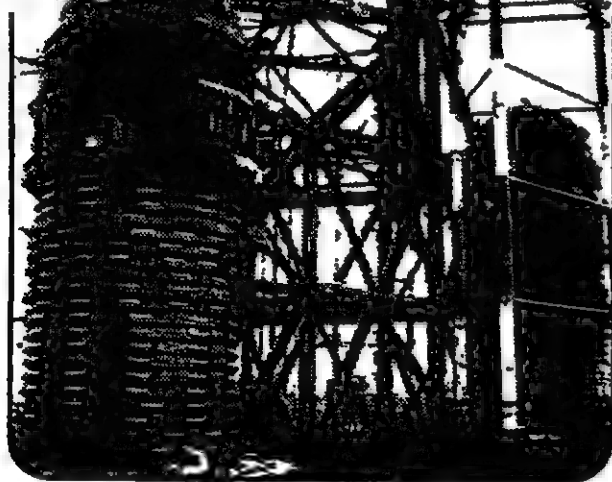
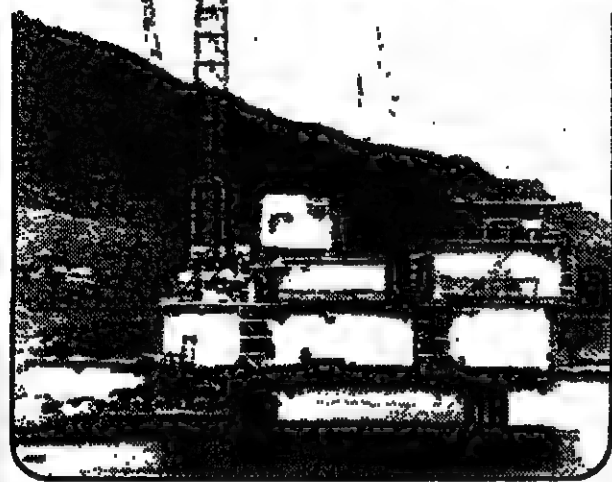


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## Not terribly pretty but...



## we managed to get it together for Maureen!

We at Webb Engineering have provided management personnel for this project. We helped in the production of the Hi-deck in Kishorn, Scotland, and the main tank-legs at Hunterston, and we were involved in the co-ordination of their final joining. We are still there, organising, and inspecting, obtaining the best results for Phillips and their co-venturers. We will remain there until the construction is complete and our clients are satisfied. Although the Maureen platform is unique we've used to these projects, our experienced management

inspection, and engineering teams are 'in charge' from Kent to Kuala Lumpur. We determine what personnel have the particular knowledge that a project demands. For management projects, we are second to none, not just for the petrochemical industry, but for cement manufacturing, food and agricultural processing, commercial and industrial complexes, onshore and offshore structures, and projects for government authorities. We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Phillips and their co-venturers on a job well done!

### WEL

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**We depend on the oil industry to survive - Webb provide dependability**

## MAUREEN

# Six partners pulling together

The Maureen project is a good example of the international collaboration that has characterized the development of Britain's North Sea oil from the time of the first discovery. The six partners in the field consist of three British, one American, one Belgian and one Italian company.

For all of them, the Maureen field represents their first significant involvement in a commercial oil development in the British sector of the North Sea, although many of them are already involved in gas production and most of them have stakes in other so far undeveloped oil discoveries.

The six companies in the partnership - with their percentage interests - are Phillips Petroleum, the operator (33.78 per cent), Petrofina (28.96 per cent), Agip (17.26 per cent), Century Power and Light (3 per cent), Ultramar (6 per cent) and British Electric Traction (5 per cent).

The partnership was established in 1970 at the time of the fourth round of North Sea licence awards. The field was discovered in February 1973, and the partnership has remained unchanged since then. BET, however, has indicated recently that it is interested in selling its 5 per cent stake, although no deal has yet been announced or signed.

As operator of the project Phillips Petroleum has played

the most important part in the development of the field. The company, based in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where its founder, Frank Phillips, a one-time barber, first set up shop as an oilman more than 70 years ago, now ranks as the eleventh largest oil company in the United States and claims to be the forty-third largest company in the world. It has one of the most successful exploration records of any company in the North Sea.

It was Phillips which, in 1969, made the first commercial oil discovery in the North Sea, a find that eventually proved to be the giant Ekofisk complex of fields in the Norwegian sector.

The North Sea is certain to play a key role in the company's future. The start-up of production from Maureen will provide a significant addition to the company's income base.

Of the British partners in Maureen, Ultramar is perhaps the best known in the oil industry. Its main businesses are refining and marketing of oil in Canada and production of natural gas in Indonesia. But it has made no secret of its desire to develop a significant presence in the North Sea. It already has a small flow of income from the Thistle oil field, having bought a 1.39 per cent interest a few years ago.

Along with increased Indonesian gas production, the Maureen oil will help to give

### Maureen Field

Location:  
North Sea Block 16/28 U.K.

Waterdepth:  
85.8m

Reserves:  
170 million barrels oil

Discovery:  
February, 1973

Development:  
January, 1978

Start-up:  
Late 1983

Participants:	Share
Phillips	33.78%
Petrofina	28.96%
Agip	17.26%
Century Power	3.00%
Ultramar	6.00%
British Electric Traction	5.00%

another boost to profits after a remarkable five years in which Ultramar's operating profit has leapt from £14.1m in 1978 to £105.8m last year.

Century Power and Light is a consortium company that was set up specifically to explore for oil and gas in the North Sea. The majority holding of 58 per cent is held by Imperial Continental Gas, with smaller stakes held by London Merchant Securities, a property, financial and energy investment company, and two Touche Remnant investment trusts. Imperial Continental Gas is one

of Britain's oldest companies, dating back to the 1820s. Its hardcore business was in the compressed air, coke, gas, and it also has strategic holdings in a number of utilities in Belgium.

Century Power and Light, which last year made a post-tax profit of £5.2m, has interests in some 40 licences in the North Sea, including the Hewett gas field, Andrew and T Block.

Agip UK is the North Sea exploration and production arm of ENI, the giant state-owned Italian energy, chemicals and industrial conglomerate. Its sister company, Norsk Agip, is responsible for its activities on the other side of the median line in the North Sea.

The North Sea has also become an important source of revenue and profits to Petrofina, the independent oil and chemicals company which is one of Belgium's better known industrial concerns.

Unlike the rest of its partners, BET has been showing signs of tiring of the oil business. As one of Britain's largest industrial conglomerates, with interests ranging from television rental to plant hire and Wembley Stadium, BET has always regarded the North Sea as a simple investment rather than as a strategic core of its business.

**Jonathan Davis**

Financial Correspondent

## Raising the capital

Financing the Maureen development has posed a series of challenges to the partners in the field, arising from the size of the project and the extreme volatility of such key variables as the oil price, the rate of inflation and the cost of money.

When the field was being planned in 1978, the price of oil was still approximately \$12 a barrel. By 1980 it had soared to \$39 a barrel, and now it has settled around the \$30 a barrel mark, after fears earlier this year that it could go crashing to \$20 a barrel or even less.

This powerful boost to the potential profitability of the field has been significantly offset by the doubling of the project's costs, an 18 months delay on construction of the platform and several government-imposed increases in the rate of North Sea oil taxation. The last four years have also seen interest rates, inflation and the crucial dollar/sterling exchange rate yo-yoing dramatically, compounding the problems of those responsible for trying to plan the Maureen investment programme.

From the outset Maureen - with only 15 million barrels of reserves - was regarded as economically marginal, and it became vital for the partners to

convince their bankers that everything was being done to limit the capital cost of the project and accelerate the first flow of oil.

The original capital cost was put at \$600m, and it is interesting to note that at the time the template was laid in June 1979 stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie - who specialize in oil finance - were forecasting a rate of return for Maureen of 28 per cent, a very healthy figure.

Today the sums are not so rosy. The latest official estimate of the capital cost is \$1,400m, more than twice the original figure. Phillips and its partners believe however that with the rapid progress that has been made since the platform was floated out in July the final cost can be kept to \$1,300m or less.

Wood Mackenzie's latest forecast for Maureen's rate of return is 16.1 per cent, and the early start of oil production will make a respectable return, with higher oil prices cancelling out most of the adverse factors such as harsher oil taxes.

All six partners have raised their own finance for the project, each adopting a slightly different method. One of the first to raise money was Petrofina, which raised a \$180m loan from a banking consortium led by Société Générale of Belgium and the Republic National Bank of Dallas.

The loan fell in two parts, with \$65m in the form of a straight term loan repayable over seven years, and the balance of \$115m involving repayments linked to the level of production from the field.

### Loan repayable over seven years

Century Power and Light also raised money in 1979, borrowing \$60m as the first of a three tranche loan from the Midland Bank and the European Banking Company (a consortium bank partly owned by the Midland). Two further tranches of \$40m and \$30m have brought the total borrowed to £130m, repayable over seven years starting in November 1984.

Phillips raised \$400m in a multicurrency loan last year, which was designed to cover the cost of exploration, drilling in other parts of the North Sea as well as Maureen costs. The loan agreement was signed by 32 multinational banks, and included an option for Phillips to convert it from a general loan to non-recourse project finance. This has not yet been exercised, and Phillips meanwhile is believed to be engaged in further financing moves.

Agip raised \$200m from a group of banks led by Crédit Lyonnais and Den Norske Creditbank in February 1981, which has subsequently been topped up by another \$100m loan from broadly the same group of banks. The loan is a mixture of non-recourse and recourse financing, with the split between the two dependent on future cash flow from Maureen and other factors. The recourse financing is repayable over six years, the non-recourse over five years.

Ultramar has chosen a different route, spurring project finance in favour of a simple bank loan of £33m from Midland Bank and a Canadian banking group. The loan - which was renegotiated to take account of the project's soaring costs - is repayable from the end of next year. The attraction of this method for Ultramar was that it was by far the simplest method, involving the minimum of management time. It is also one that the company believes will prove to be the least expensive method.

Because such a large proportion of Maureen's oil will be produced in the first four years of its life, the final profitability of the field is critically dependent on what happens to oil prices between now and 1987.

JD

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Would like to add its congratulations  
to the operator and consortium  
in the development  
of the Maureen Field.

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The S.L.P. Group congratulates Phillips Petroleum  
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## Seven stages of development



## BELOW THE WAVES

# Ingenuity at the margins

Of all the engineering marvels of the twentieth century, the skill, enterprise, technology application and downright novelty of North Sea oil exploration and production must boost it into the ranks of the unparalleled.

Successive oil field developments have demanded ever-increasing expertise and the Maureen project is no exception. Above and below the waves are examples of the stretching of engineering knowledge to fit the peculiar requirements of offshore oil extraction. Maureen is regarded as a marginal field, with reserves of 170 million barrels of oil, and the main task when considering the type of production platform to be used was to ensure that peak output levels would be achieved as soon as possible after installation and that costs would be kept to a minimum.

## Oil tankers preferable to pipeline

A problem for the designers was the need to load the oil tankers on the spot rather than build an expensive pipeline to the shore. It was because of Maureen's economic sensitivity to shut down, necessary if stormy seas halted tanker



The Technomare steel gravity structure on tow from Hunterston to Loch Kishorn

loading, there had to be an in-built storage facility. After much deliberation of the relative advantages of steel versus concrete it was decided to opt for a cheaper, and less massive, steel structure and in May 1979 Phillips chose and ordered the design submitted by Technomare of Milan.

The 40,000-tonne platform,

known as the Technomare steel gravity (TSG) structure, is the first of its type to incorporate oil storage capability and support drilling and production facilities. It is also the largest gravity platform in the world, measuring 450ft wide and 390ft at its highest part.

Ayrshire Marine Constructors, a partnership between the American steel company Chicago Bridge & Iron and Scotland's Weir Group, began construction of the TSG in June, 1979, at its Hunterston yard in Ayrshire. Sadly, after completing the job last November, the yard faces a bleak future in the recession-hit offshore hardware industry.

The graving dock at Hunterston is on a 104-acre man-made island linked to the south-east bank of the Clyde estuary and it was here that the three-year construction job was undertaken. The most distinctive features of the TSG, which soon became prominent at Hunterston, are the three cylindrical steel ballast and storage tanks, each 240ft high and 80ft in diameter and capable of holding up to 650,000 barrels of oil.

## Floating out on tow to Loch Kishorn

Fabrication of the TSG involved a total of 35 Ayrshire's sub-contractors. Most of them were Scottish or English but a significant proportion of the structure was made by specialist firms in France, West Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Austria. One of the great feats of the entire Maureen operations was the float-out and tow of the TSG to Loch Kishorn further north on the Scottish west coast for mating with the deck assembly, a contract won by the Paris firm of C. G. Doris, 50 per cent-owned by Howard Doris, main contractor for the dock.

Each of the storage tank legs was filled with air and the platform rose to the surface so

that less than 20ft of the 390ft structure was below the water.

Then began the slow, five-day tow to Kishorn, a journey that had been postponed for nearly a month because of unsettled weather. Now, on November 2, six tugs with a combined power of 102,000 hp began pulling the platform, now with ballasted tanks to give a draft of 87ft, out of the Firth of Clyde, past the islands of Arran and Jlay and then turning north into the Sea of Hebrides.

After passing between the islands of Skye and North Uist, the flotilla turned eastwards and then south into Loch Kishorn, a journey of 339 nautical miles at an average speed of 2.8 knots. For the trip to Kishorn, the platform had been equipped with a temporary deck fitted with a ballast control room, accommodation for a crew of eight and power supply.

Mooring of the TSG took a further 25 hours and then the structure was ready to receive permanent ballast. On January 17 this year, C. G. Doris began to pump in a total 51,246 tonnes of iron ore aggregate called orecrete into the tank bases, an operation that took 35 days to complete and provides a clear indication of the size of the Maureen platform, most of which is now hidden from sight under the inhospitable waters of the North Sea.

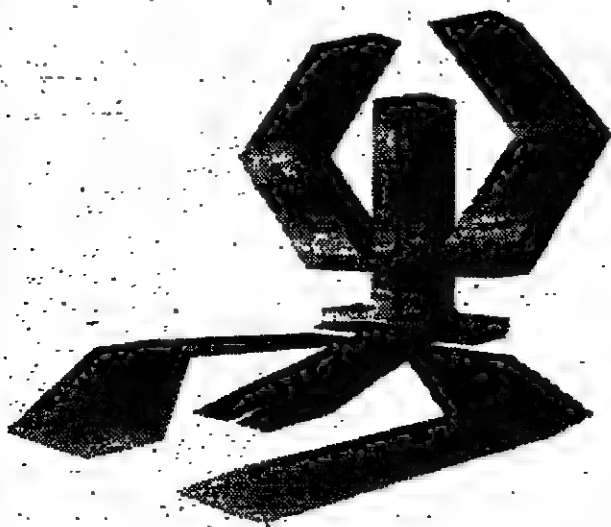
The solid ballast more than doubled the TSG's weight to 91,000 tonnes and gave it a draft of 143 ft and the operation was followed in March by a series of inclining tests to assess the platform's centre of gravity.

This was followed in April by the start of the complicated and delicate process of mating the TSG with the deck, a process that required the TSG to be water ballasted down so that only 26 ft was showing above water. The TSG was now ready for the final stages of turning it into a fully fledged North Sea production platform.

Edward Townsend  
Industrial Correspondent

## Maureen

ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT TO ENERGY FINANCING IN THE NORTH SEA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



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## TEMPLATE DRILLING

# Drilling fast off the mark

One of the novel features of the Maureen field is that it will reach peak production of more than 70,000 barrels a day very quickly now that it has come on stream. This is because all the wells needed to tap the reservoir have already been drilled. Whereas on most fields the majority of wells are drilled from the platform itself after it has been installed on site, Phillips started drilling wells more than four years ago - long before the production platform was towed out to its resting place 163 miles north-northeast of Aberdeen.

A conventional semi-submersible drilling rig, the Sedneth 701, began drilling the first production well in June 1979. By the spring of this year, a few months behind schedule, it had completed all 19 wells that Phillips calculates it will need to extract the recoverable oil from the field. Gas and water will be pumped through the wells into the reservoir to boost the rate at which the oil flows to the surface in the later stages of the field's life.

## Aim to cut costs and speed flow

The wells have been drilled through a template, a large steel grid placed on the sea bed in the middle of the field. The structure weighs some 460 tons, and has 24 circular holes - or "slots". As only 19 wells have been drilled, the remaining five slots have been left as spares. The template now rests under the massive steel gravity platform, and is secured to the seabed by four 42in piles. Although template drilling has become increasingly common in the North Sea in recent years, the Maureen field was the first to incorporate it as integral to the production system. As with other features of the production design, the aim has been to cut costs and accelerate the first flow of oil.

Having all the wells pre-drilled means that the time lag between the installation of the

platform and peak production can be cut to a minimum. In theory it should be no more than a few weeks, the time it takes to "hook up" the wells.

In practice Phillips is still proceeding cautiously, and does not expect to have all the Maureen production wells on stream until next year. It wants to make sure that the reservoir is performing as expected, and that the taps are not opened so quickly as to risk damaging the prospects of extracting the last drop of oil from the field. But the financial gain from having to wait for all the production wells to be drilled - a process that would normally take at least two-and-a-half years - will be considerable. The quicker the oil flow can be built up, the more likely the field is to show a reasonable rate of return. Pre-drilling has helped to ensure that half the field's 150m barrels of reserves will be recovered in the first three to four years of production, an unusually high proportion.

Most of the Maureen field wells have been drilled to a depth of between 9,000 and 10,000 feet, but the actual length of drilling pipe involved in most of the wells is considerably greater, since they have been drilled "directionally" as well as vertically. This means that wells have been drilled at an angle in order to reach the furthest corners of the reservoir, something which is particularly important for injection wells, which are designed to drive lingering pockets of oil up to the surface, once natural pressure is no longer sufficient to do the job.

The wells radiate out from the template like the spokes of a wheel, some of them finishing up nearly two miles away from the central production platform. Phillips calculates, by way of illustration, that if the Maureen template had been placed on the site of its office in London's Victoria Street, there would be wells reaching out as far as Baker Street, Harrods, the new Covent Garden market at Nine Elms, and the Oval cricket ground.

JD

NatWest and Citicorp are pleased to be associated with Phillips Petroleum in financing its North Sea developments and congratulate Phillips and its partners in bringing the Maureen Oil Field into production.

Citicorp International Group  
National Westminster Bank Group

as

Joint Lead Managers  
US\$400,000,000 North Sea Financing  
with full and limited recourse

National Westminster Bank Group

CITICORP

# Our North Sea neighbours are not noted for their table manners.

Phillips Petroleum's fellow inhabitants of the North Sea do not stand much on ceremony. Almost from the day we sank our first wells, they started showing up for dinner. Even before we had a chance to send out invitations.

Our platforms, it seems, create miniature reefs, just what this desolate, flat-bottomed part of the ocean needs for mussels, anemones, starfish and their like to take hold.

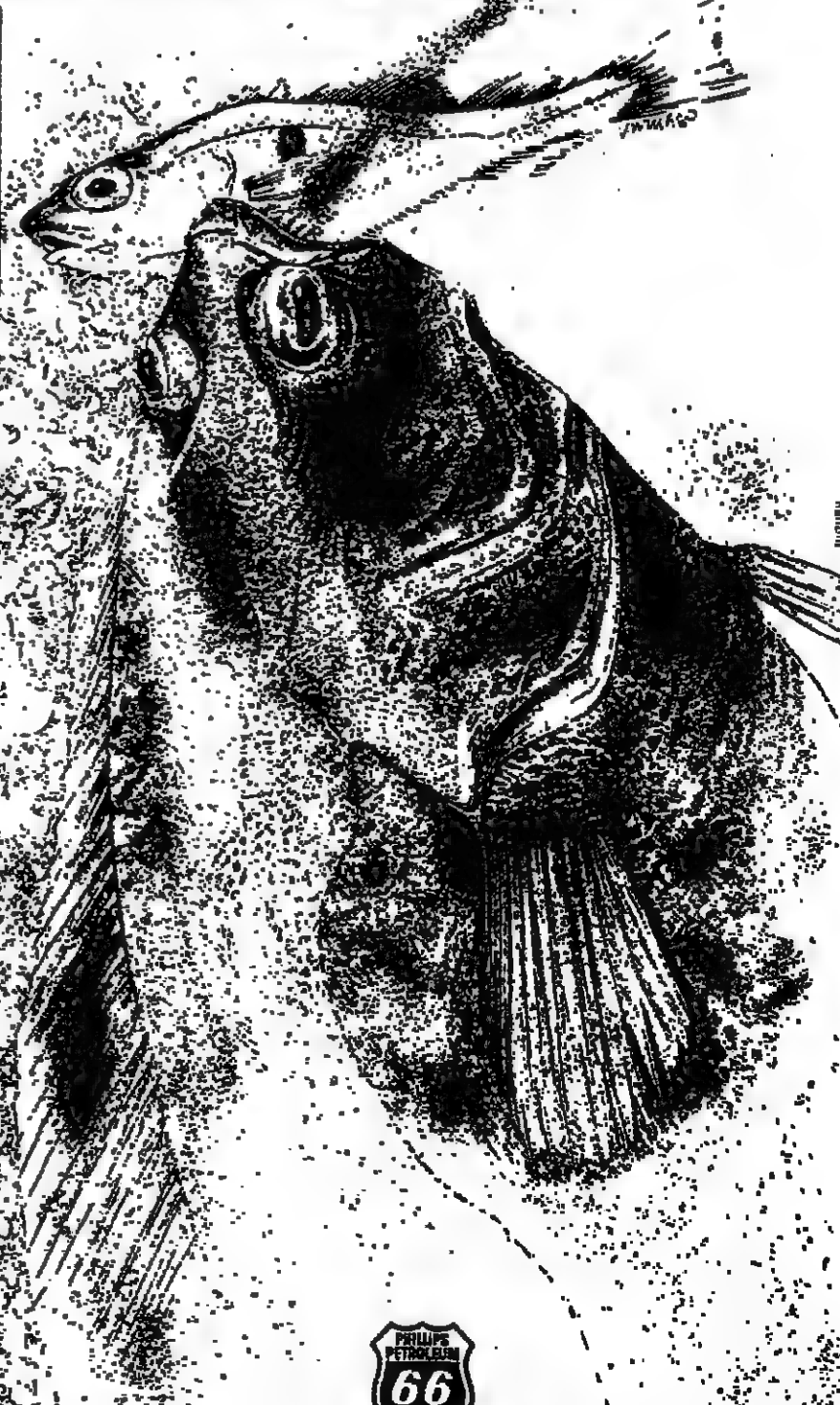
They attract small fish which, in turn, attract an almost endless chain of finny cousins in search of repast. We'd like you to meet a few:

**The saithe.** Hot on the tail of the herring, you'll usually find the saithe. He'll go a long way for his favourite dish. Which is why he often winds up being a favourite dish himself. The saithe, poor fellow, is forever being caught accidentally in herring nets.

**The haddock.** Legend has it that the large black "thumbprint" behind his pectoral fin was put there by Saint Peter when he picked the haddock out of the sea. Fishermen today may wish the trick were still so easy, for though the haddock is much sought after, he proves far more elusive than relatives like the cod.

**The halibut.** Where you find haddock, you'll often see the halibut with his voracious appetite. He enjoys the haddock's company although the feeling is not mutual. The largest of the flatfish, he's a deep water gourmand. His taste also tends toward shrimp, hermit crabs, and sand eels.

One of the heartening parts of our experience in the North Sea is that our neighbours, who managed quite well before us, seem to be doing even better with us. The dining beneath the platforms from which man searches for oil and gas is both rich and abundant.



Natural resources in a natural environment.

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- Division of Combustion Engineering - designers and manufacturers of well control equipment and the GRAYLOC® Connectors are proud to be associated with Phillips Petroleum Ltd. and congratulate them on bringing their Maureen Platform on stream.



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### MAUREEN

## The massive above-sea platform

While the construction of the vast sub-sea platform for the Maureen field was proceeding on the Firth of Clyde, the second part of the structure, the highly complicated deck, was taking place 325 miles to the north.

In line with Phillips's policy of time and cost saving by producing a prefabricated platform ready for installation above the previously drilled Maureen wells, the integrated deck concept was preferred. As well as cutting down the time needed for offshore work, the idea of assembling the deck close to shore produced significant cost reductions over conventional methods.

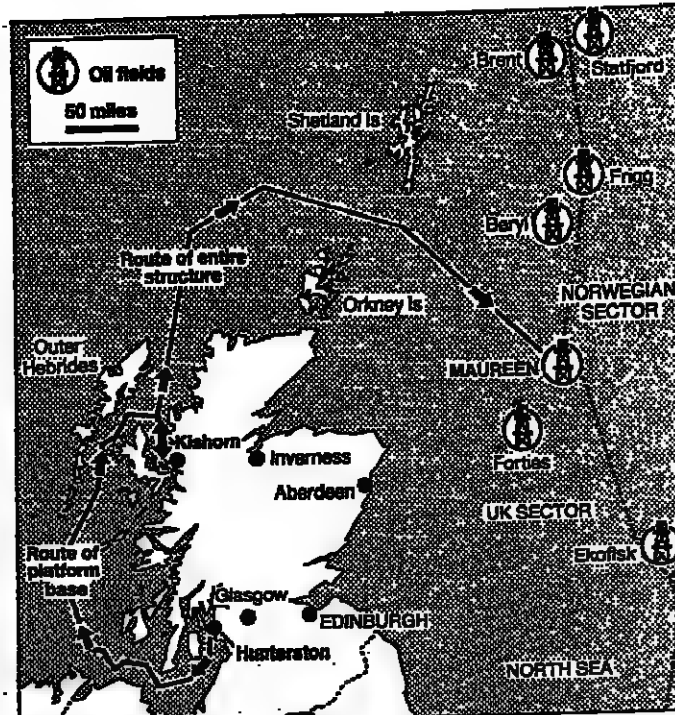
Construction time on the deck was reduced further by manufacturing the top-side units in modular form to allow rapid installation.

The unique nature of the entire £700m project is the bringing together of the three main elements, the steel gravity platform, the integrated deck and the predrilled wells, into a single package.

Howard Doris at Loch Kishorn, the company that also won the contract to build the drilling template which was to be laid on the sea bed ready for the huge platform, began construction of the deck in June 1979. The deck was the fifth major offshore structure to be built by Howard Doris and the first steel integrated deck of its size and design for the North Sea.

It weighs 19,000 tonnes and measures 255ft by 245ft, about half the size of a football pitch and, says Phillips, a "surprisingly small area" in which to pack all the deck's facilities. It was designed by Brown and Root and, to the uninitiated, looks very much like any other offshore oil platform. At one corner stands the flare stack and next to it is the drilling rig which extends down through the deck's three levels.

About 100 people will live and work on the Maureen platform, most of them accommodated in the six-storey block which comprises two main cabins, a five-bed medical centre, television lounge, kitchen and dining room seating 75. On the "roof" is the helideck. A three-storey living block contains the platform's offices, stores, machine workshop, communications centre and main control room as well as recreation rooms, a 125-seat cinema, gymnasium and sauna.



chen and dining room seating 75. On the "roof" is the helideck. A three-storey living block contains the platform's offices, stores, machine workshop, communications centre and main control room as well as recreation rooms, a 125-seat cinema, gymnasium and sauna.

### Liferafts and survival capsules

The Maureen "township" is equipped with five survival capsules, each with a 50-person capacity.

The deck's provisions for lifesaving also include 12 inflatable liferafts, 250 lifejackets and 50 lifebuoys.

On the first of the deck's three main levels is the oil production manifold which channels the oil into coolers and separators for the removal of water and natural gas. After further treatment, the oil flows

into the three giant tanks below the surface of the sea ready for piping to the loading column 1½ miles away.

Meanwhile, the gas processing system compresses the gas for use as fuel and for future gas-lift operations.

The third major process is the seawater injection system on the lower deck which will pump water at the rate of 90,000 barrels a day to maintain pressure at the well.

Power generation for the platform will be by five gas turbine generators, each with an output of 3.1 megawatts, backed up by two diesel generators in the event of failure and, in turn, emergency batteries.

Drinking water at the rate of 50 tons a day will come from two sea water distillation units and the chance of oil-polluted water or solids being discharged is minimized by the inclusion of a waste water disposal system.

Fire-fighting equipment and systems clearly must be paramount in designing an oil rig

### MAUREEN PLATFORM:

Type: Steel Gravity/Integrated deck  
TSG Substructure:  
Ordered May, 1979  
Designed by Technomic, Venice  
Built by AMC Humberston  
Helideck:  
Designed by Brown & Root, UK  
Built by Howard Doris, Kishorn  
Topside:  
Designed by Worley  
Engineering, UK  
Platform Data:  
Weight of TSG base: 42,000T  
Weight of Helideck: 19,000T  
Production Capacity: 80,000b/d  
Oil Export:  
Articulated loading column (ALC) for direct tanker loading offshore

and the Maureen deck is protected by an emergency system which automatically shuts down the plant. A water deluge system protects all the major process equipment, and there is a multiplicity of fire extinguishing and detection equipment.

Further protection is afforded by filling with water all the hollow structural members on the deck to enable heat to be dissipated by convection.

Early in February, after being fully equipped with most of its complicated hardware in the inshore safety of Loch Kishorn, the deck was "loaded-out" by sliding a single huge self-ballooning barge underneath and lifting it from its foundations. The operations, controlled almost entirely by computer, involved the flow of 10,000 tonnes of water ballast through 32 pumps so that the barge rose evenly to take the weight of the deck.

The next stage before the final mating was the installation of instrumentation on the deck to control the joining of the parts of the rig and the welding of mating cones on the underside.

Then, on April 4, the barge with its enormous cargo slipped between the deck support legs of the partially submerged platform. The water ballast was pumped out of the platform's tanks and slowly the structure rose out of the water to mate with the deck, a unique feat in oil platform engineering.

ET

### TOWING AND SETTING

## A gamble with the weather

The most important man at Loch Kishorn in the first eight days of June was Maurice Labaye, senior meteorologist in the C.G. Doris project team. Towing a 111,750-tonne structure which towers 600ft above sea level through the unpredictable waters round the north of Scotland is by itself a difficult enough feat. Running into a storm at the wrong place and the wrong time could turn a problem into a nightmare, or worse, a tragedy.

To lengthen the odds against

that happening, the 405-nautical mile route mapped out between Kishorn and the Maureen site had been broken into sections, with four "holding" areas en route where the fleet of six tugs and escort ship could, if bad weather set in, hold the platform fast until conditions improved. The meteorologist's job was to allow the fleet to negotiate the Minch to the first holding point in open water just to the east of the northernmost tip of the Isle of Lewis.

Weather reports were produced at six-hourly intervals, then, finally, on Wednesday June 8 the all clear was given and the fleet, under the command of townmaster Captain Heinrich Detlev, set off.

The journey was to take them up the west coast and then in a parabola through the channel between the Orkneys and Shetlands into the North Sea and south-east towards the Maureen Field, 163 miles east-northeast of Aberdeen. The four tugs Oceanic, Smit Rotterdam, Caribic and Typhoon, which between them packed 66,000 hp, applied the main force to the leading leg, while the 16,000 hp Titan and Smit New York took the strain on legs two and three, acting as the nearest thing the platform had to a rudder.

The weather men could give no guarantees and in fact severe weather did hit the fleet on the 350-mile offshore leg around the north coast of Scotland. "We got the 72 hour forecast and it was reasonable; in fact it was quite good", Paul Shipley, Phillips Petroleum's construction manager, marine projects says. "But we no more than got under way when the conditions changed."

As the fleet moved towards the channel between the Orkneys and the Shetlands a storm blew up and kept blowing for the next four or five days. Providentially the wind was blowing with the fleet. "The first few days it was out of the south-west and we were heading north-east, so it helped us", Shipley says. "We were being pushed along; we didn't have to have near the strain on the line; we didn't have to tow as hard... Then we headed back south-east and by that time, in effect, we had winds from the north-west and again they were pushing us... The wind was

behind us and pushing the platform. The platform itself had a big wind-sail effect from it. It was pushing in the general direction that we wanted to go."

If the wind had been coming from another direction, things could have been very different. Phillips Petroleum construction engineer Alan Affleck remembers looking down from the platform as the strong winds struck. "The platform itself seemed inviolable."

"Being on the platform we didn't feel anything at all. But looking down at the six towing tugs, they were rolling about all over the place. We felt really sorry for those guys down on the water. Whether it looked as if we were rolling or not from down there I don't know", he recalls.

He is well aware of how lucky the team had been with wind direction. It was helping them, but it might have been otherwise. "If the wind at that strength would have been any other direction we'd have been in deep trouble", he says. "The severe winds were in a direction that was helping rather than hindering us. If they had been from virtually any other direction, we would have had a problem to hold it with the tugs we had. There's only one wire from each tug, and we needed those six tugs. If one had gone... well... The Scottish weather is nothing but not capricious; having blown up a storm - albeit a storm which helped the fleet - the winds died out just as the fleet reached the Maureen field on June 15."

"The day we arrived out there the wind stopped blowing just like the opening of the waters", Shipley says.

If the tow had lasted everyone's seamanship, positioning the structure was to stretch their

Continued on page 19

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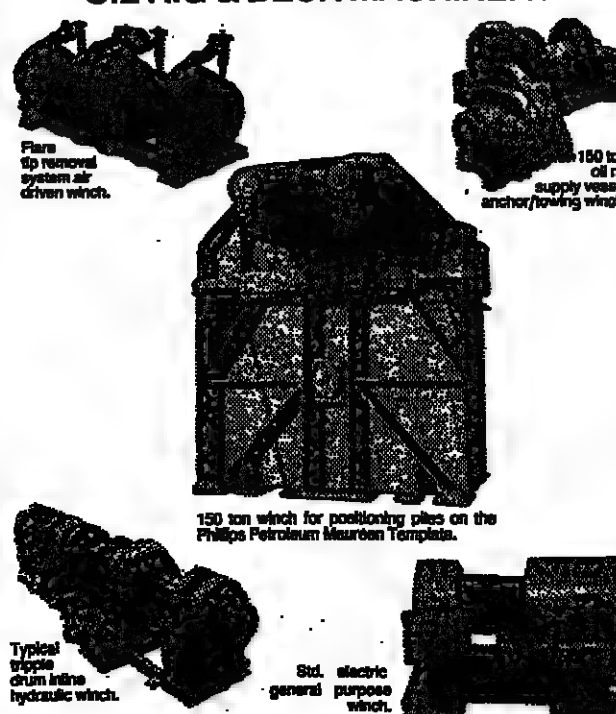
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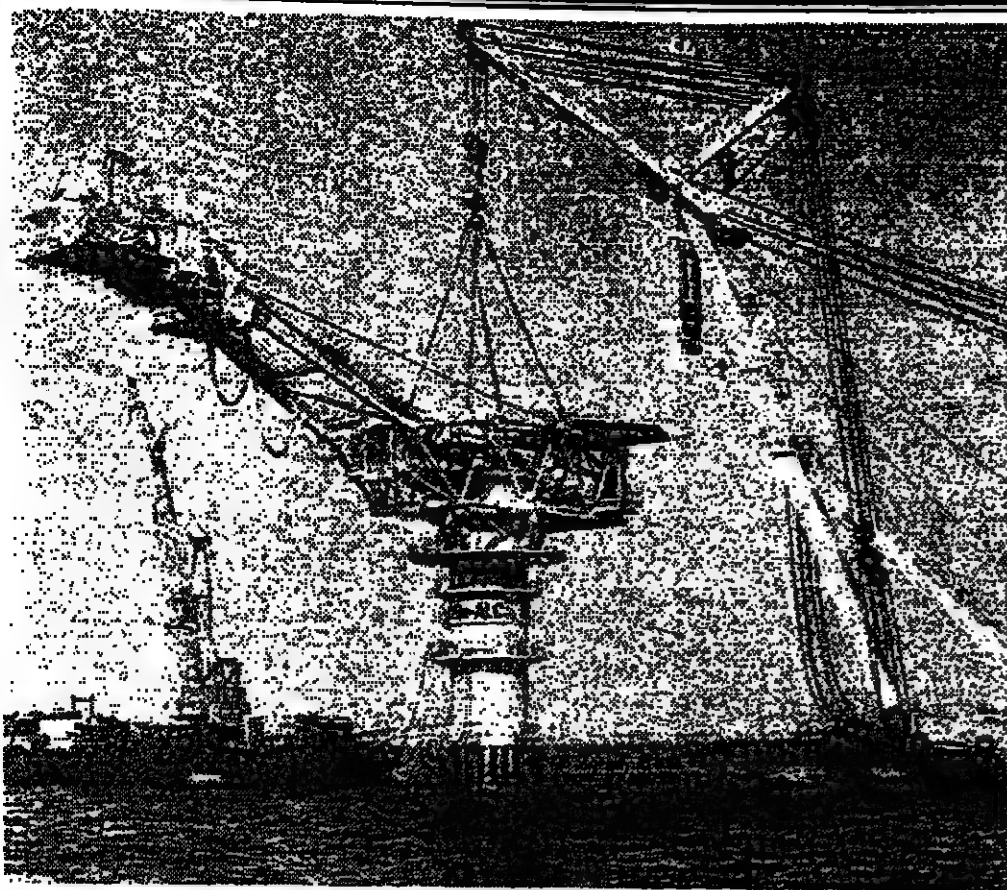
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## OIL LOADING

# Tanker shuttle saves costs

The Maureen field's recoverable oil reserves are relatively small. That means, in practical terms, that the money which could be spent exploiting them also had to be relatively small. Economically, it would not have made sense to build a pipeline to bring the oil ashore. The solution was an offshore tanker loading system - a pair of tankers shuttling from field to shore.

Oil cannot be loaded on to tankers direct from a production platform - the safety problems alone would be horrendous - but it can be offloaded from a separate structure built close to the platform and linked to it by pipelines.

The Phillips Petroleum engineers decided on an articulated loading column - a chimney-shaped cylinder whose bottom would be pinned to the seabed by a gigantic universal joint, its top being surmounted, above sea level, by a rotary head supporting a winch deck and a boom which carries the loading hose out to the tanker (see diagram). The oil is pumped from the production platform's 650,000-barrel storage tanks through a 1½-mile pipeline.

The column was designed by the Parisian Equipements Mécaniques et Hydrauliques (EMH) in association with C. Doris and EMH awarded the fabrication contract to Howard Doris. It was decided to build the structure largely in concrete. The first time this had been done in the North Sea. The cost was lower and tests suggested that

the construction time and structural performance would equal the only alternative - steel.

The column was built by slipforming, a method of construction which involves pouring concrete into forms (or moulds) which are then "shipped" progressively as the work goes on. Five separate sections, each more than 54ft long and weighing 475 tonnes, were built like this in a vertical position, then tipped over into a horizontal position and joined together with concrete. Two concrete cylindrical buoyancy tanks were built using the same method to form the base. When construction was completed the column and base were locked together.

## 1,000 tons of iron ballast was used

In July 1982, the loading column was towed out to deep water off the Isle of Skye and turned by water ballasting through 45 degrees so that it floated into an upright position. After the rotating head had been attached and 1,000 tonnes of iron ballast poured in, the 430ft column, most of it now below the surface of the water, was ready to be towed out to the field.

Peter Fisher, chief engineer in London for Howard Doris, explains the logic of towing the articulated loading column out vertically when to a layman it might seem more sensible to float it horizontally on the

surface, like a log, and right it *in situ* on the field.

"The maximum advantage in the construction of these things is gained by maximizing completion in sheltered inshore waters. So we were able to take advantage of the deep water close to the Kishorn site, in the inner sound, for tilting the structure to the vertical, placing solid ballast in the bottom of the column, installing the head, hooking it up and commissioning which meant that the articulated loading column went out essentially complete. Had these operations been carried out in the North Sea they would have been more weather dependent and very much more expensive."

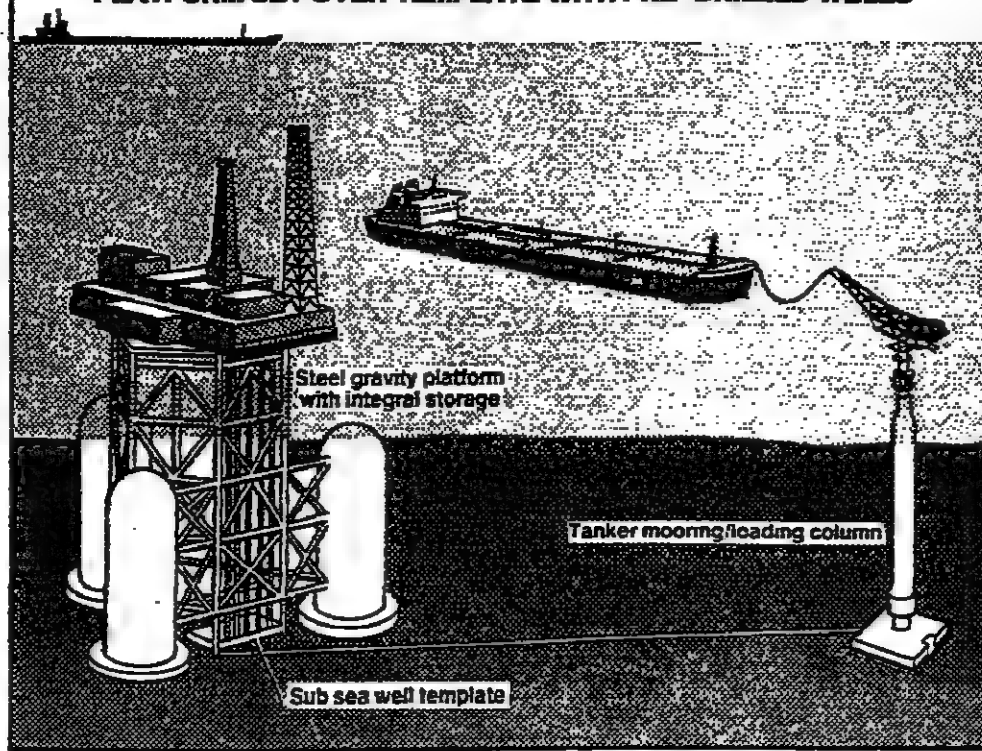
The towing operation started on August 18, 1982, and took 15 days. Bad weather made the going hard for the tug Abeille Provence which was pulling the column.

According to Frances Elbez, project engineer for EMH, the tug and its load ran into heavy weather after a couple of days as it moved northwards.

"We continued to tow the structure but of course very slowly - an average of about 1.5 knots... We even had to turn back once and come back on our position... The sea was very rough."

Because the column under tow had a draught of nearly 275 ft, several times deeper than even the largest tanks, the route had to be very carefully planned. Instead of going between the Orkneys and the Shetlands as the production platform was later to do, the

## PLATFORM SET OVER TEMPLATE WITH PRE-DRILLED WELLS



Left: the articulated loading column and, above, how the system will operate

## LEADERS IN OFFSHORE CABLE TECHNOLOGY

Pirelli General has supplied a wide range of electric cables for the Maureen platform. This is the latest major cable contract in a long association with Phillips Petroleum as the principal cable supplier for their North Sea installations.

In addition to the standard platform cables, Pirelli General designed and manufactured the large flexible cables connecting a generator barge to the ballast pumps controlling the jacket descent to the seabed. These cables were installed on the jacket by Pirelli Construction Company.

Many other special cable designs have been produced for North Sea oil and gas fields. Other designs available for offshore use include hydraulic and electro-hydraulic umbilicals; and submarine power cables of up to 50 kilometres continuous length, both for land-platform and inter-platform connections.

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## The weather

Continued from page 18

technical skills to the limit. The objective was to lower the platform on to a template, already fixed into the seabed, through which the wells had been driven and the oil would eventually flow. Considering that the platform had been towed through more than 400 miles of often unfriendly seas it must have seemed a little churlish of the design engineers to insist that those who were to lower the platform on to the

template had to get it accurate to less than 1ft. The limits allowed were 10in horizontal variance and 1.5 degrees of tilt.

The positioning took two days. The positioning team started to connect the platform to four mooring lines at 13.45 on June 16. By the early hours of the next day all the moorings had been tensioned, and at breakfast time that day ballasting began. The crucial final stage of the ballasting, to bring the structure close to the engagement point where it would clamp on to the two docking piles on either side of

the template, was accomplished by pumping sea-water into compartments in the tank legs.

The docking was the most intricate part of the whole operation. The engineers had to know precisely how the structure was lying in the water and how it was moving. A whole battery of monitoring systems was used.

"We had television and we had transponders using a system of triangulation," Shipley says. "These transponders would print out or transpose onto a printed circuit a figure which said 'OK, you are

spot on' or 'you're 5mm to the left' or to the right or north or south - and then you made your corrections..."

The positioning team manoeuvred the structure to within less than 3ft of the docking piles before the decision to engage was finally taken. Engagement was successfully achieved at 19.30, the platform ballasted again and then, finally, at 22.50 on June 17 the Maureen platform touched down on the bed of the North Sea.

MB



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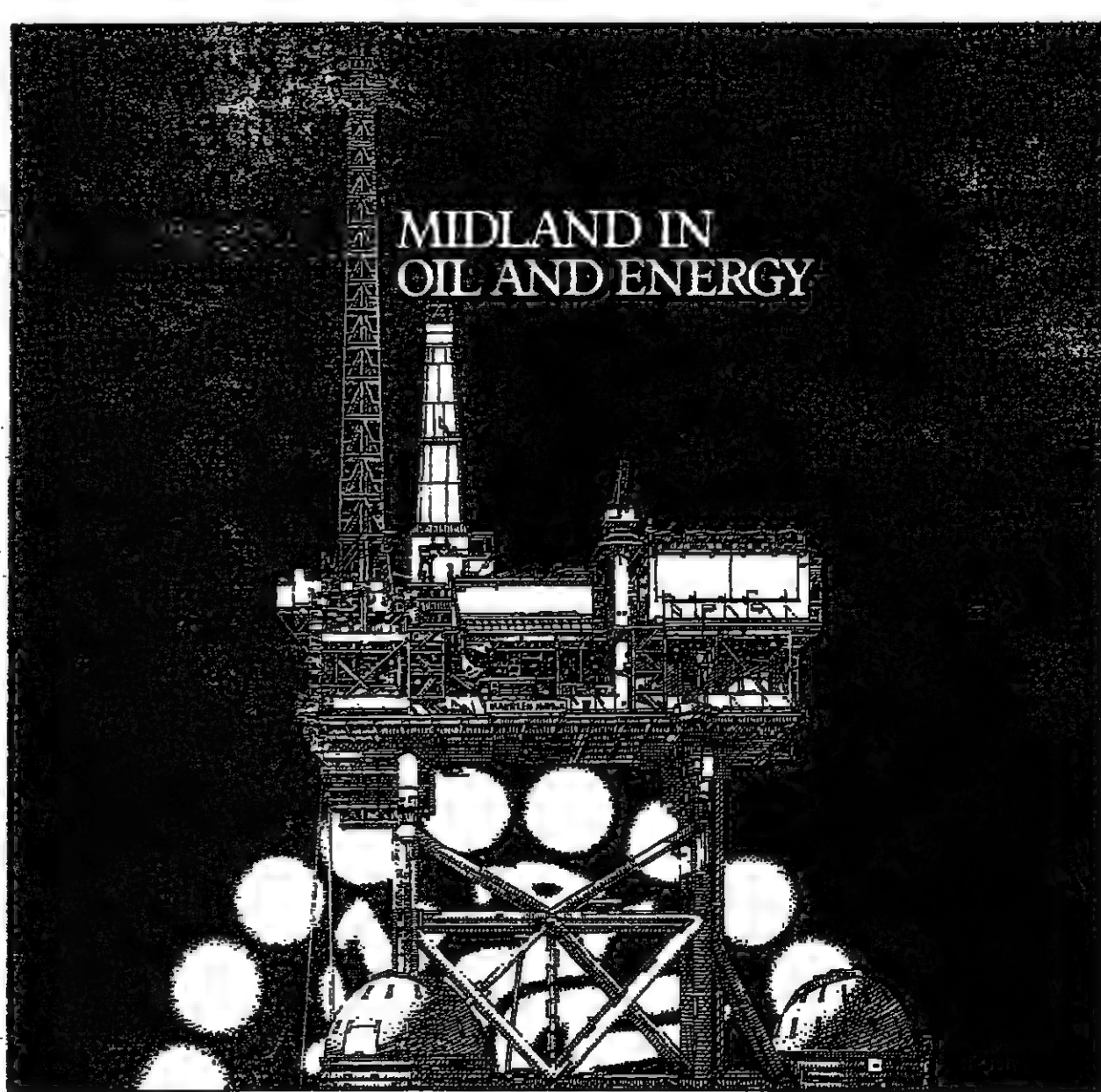
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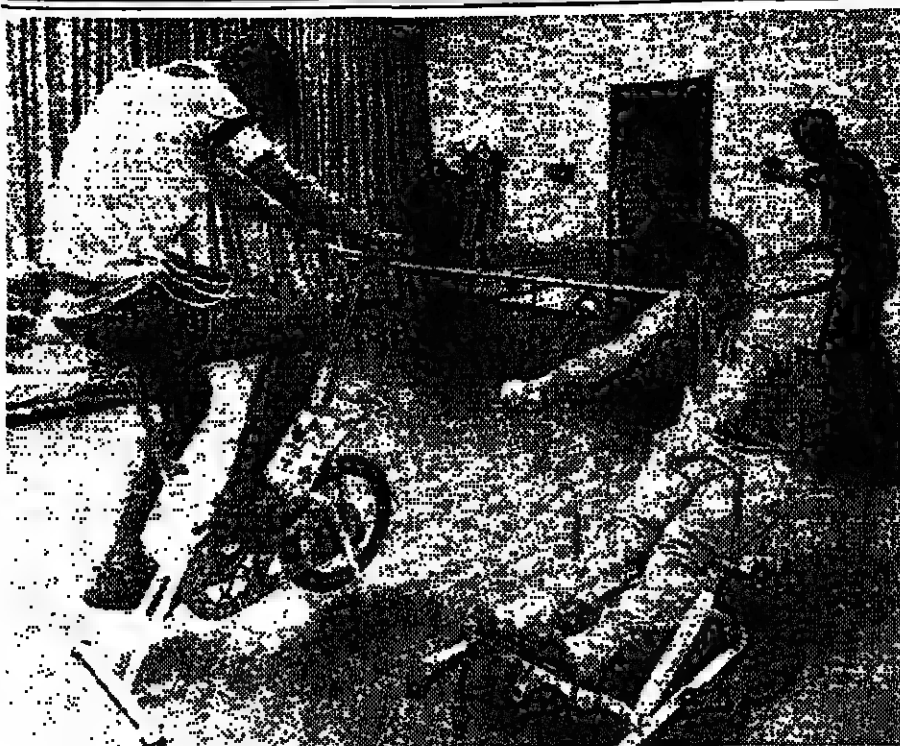
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Life on the oil rig includes health and fitness training as well as good canteen, television and cabin provision.

#### TRAINING

## Pinpointing possible trouble

Before they even set foot on the Maureen platform, the operations crew who constantly monitor its complex drilling and production systems had already been trained to deal with the type of problems they are likely to face in the hostile North Sea.

A malfunction in any of the equipment can lead to expensive delays and endanger lives. Fail-safe devices are built into the platform, but pinpointing potential trouble before it occurs makes for safer and more profitable operations.

The 24 production operators who man the control room on Maureen have already spent the equivalent of a working week in a £800,000 simulator at Phillips' Aberdeen base.

The Maureen simulator is one of the most sophisticated built by Redifusion Simulation at Cowley. It can reproduce the processes involved in oil and gas production, separation, dehydration,

storage, tanker loading, gas lift, gas compression, gas volume control, water injection, water filtration, water volume control and local shut-down.

The simulator is a Systems Engineering Laboratories 32/77 digital computer, which through a mathematical model, gives realistic responses on the instrument panels. The Instructor uses a computer terminal comprising a visual display unit and keyboard to enable him to monitor and review the training programme. He is also able to freeze exercises in order to hold discussions, and he can speed up or slow them down.

#### Simulator reduces training time on and off-shore

Phillips says that the use of the simulator has reduced training time and helped staff to correct mistakes in operating procedure.

Even experienced operators have benefited from simulator training. Training courses may be organized for other North Sea companies.

Phillips used the simulator from mid-March to the end of August to supplement classroom training at Aberdeen with groups managing up to seven students spending from two to 60 hours in the simulator. In total 80 of the Maureen production crew have received simulator training before flying out to the platform.

Instructor Bruce Brown, who was on temporary assignment to the training programmes from the US, said: "It's as realistic as we can make it. The sessions have gone very well. The trainees showed a high aptitude on the simulator, although it obviously helps that they are all experienced process operators."

Bruce controlled the simulation from behind a smoked

glass screen above the simulator area, and the operators, who were recruited in Teesside and Yarmouth, also received training aboard the platform while it was being built at Loch Kishorn.

#### A whole new world: huge by comparison

One of the men on the Maureen team, Mr Stuart Dawson, was recruited from the Phillips Teesside terminal staff and has never worked offshore before. He said: "It's a big step for me and a great opportunity. There are lads in the team with far more experience, but I'm not at all apprehensive. The training has gone very well."

"I will obviously miss my family while I'm away, but my wife is quite amenable to the idea and it means that when I'm home for two weeks' leave I will

probably see more of her and the children than I did when I worked at the terminal."

Lead operator Mr Doug Smith is more confident after his period of simulator training, although a North Sea veteran with ten years' offshore experience and a former shift foreman on the Hewett platform.

He said: "It will be a whole new world after Hewett. For a start the Maureen platform is huge by comparison to some of the platforms I've been on."

"The actual operation will be more complex. We'll be producing gas as well as oil and doing water injection. Conditions will also be more hostile and we'll be spending longer offshore."

"It is certainly a big challenge, but the prospects for widening our horizons are good. We can't wait to get started and everyone was hoping that they will be on the first crew after tow-out."

David Young

## The people who count

#### STAFF

Statistics about North Sea projects such as the Maureen field are so overwhelming that it is easy to regard the project in terms of a series of superlatives and forget that it is people who ultimately make the massive investments worthwhile.

The 465 nautical mile tow-out of the platform also marked the transfer of the project from the design and construction teams to the production and maintenance staff and the opening of Phillips' new Aberdeen project headquarters and a change of role for the Peterhead supply base.

For more than ten years the Peterhead base supported Phillips' activities in the UK sector of the North Sea as well as the drilling operations in the Maureen field. Now with drilling completed, the personnel at Peterhead have become responsible for supplying equipment and spares for Maureen.

The base began stockpiling Maureen spares 20 months ago, said Hans Loh, formerly base supervisor at Peterhead and now at the Aberdeen headquarters with the Maureen procurement and material control team.

Hans, who joined Phillips eight years ago, used to be warehouse supervisor at the Enderby gas plant and moved to Peterhead in 1980 where he set up a warehouse inventory-control system and a buying department.

He said: "At that time we had four rigs working in UK and Irish waters - the Western Pacesetter, the Sedmeth 700 and 701 and the Chris Cheney. Our job was to supply the rigs with their daily needs for their exploration work, but we were also thinking about setting up a warehouse for the Maureen field, both constructionally and organizationally. In November, 1981 the first people there are."

Maureen supplies arrived at Peterhead, a batch of crane spares. By January, 1982 there was a stockpile of 123 line items and by early this year 1,435 line items with a value of £1.3m were in stock. Items which Peterhead can lift by helicopter out to Maureen at short notice range from a two millimetre adjustment screw to a 24-inch diameter ball valve weighing one and a half tonnes.

This has meant that the Peterhead base has outgrown itself and a new 45,000sq ft warehouse is nearing completion.

Mr Jack Findlay, Phillips' longest serving employee at Peterhead and Hans Loh's successor as materials and transport supervisor, said: "We are moving everything apart from our drilling warehouse which will remain at the quay. It's certainly all happening at once here. I'm looking forward to the move - at least forward to when it's all over and we're back to normal."

Thirty miles south at Aberdeen is the main onshore activity surrounding Maureen and the development of the field has meant an influx of Phillips personnel to the city. For some it is their first time in the area, for others a welcome return, but for all it is an opportunity to experience the problems created in Aberdeen by its success as an oil town as well as being able to enjoy the excellent facilities the area has to offer.

Phillips UK area manager for Aberdeen, Mr Ron Rumbold, who has previously worked in Europe and Africa, transferred to the area from Bartlesville, USA, in January. He said: "It's a beautiful area. The Scots have to be among the friendliest people there are."

"Living here, it helps if you are the outdoor type. There is plenty of opportunity for skiing, fishing, shooting, boating and mountaineering. However, because Aberdeen is a boom town and there are local authority restrictions on building, finding houses can be a challenge. Some of our people have had to buy property well outside the city."

For industrial relations officer Nick Dibble the move to Aberdeen is his 14th in as many years. He joined Phillips seven years ago at the Teesside Terminal after service in the R.A.F.

Nick's plans were, however, threatened by the problems of finding suitable housing, but eventually he moved to the village of Cove with his wife and two sons. He said: "We find Aberdeen people very friendly."

The Maureen project has also meant a welcome return to the UK for engineering director Dave Wootton, who joined the company ten years ago and has been working in Texas and in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea.

He too has had to move outside Aberdeen, nineteen miles away at Banchoy. He said: "The countryside is really beautiful and there is plenty to see if you are interested in history."

Another person transferred to Aberdeen is Dave Perks, who moved north from the Teesside Terminal and is now responsible for safety and equipment inspection.

He said: "The initial stage of any new project is always the most exciting. We are very busy putting together the Maureen safety procedures. It is important that we get everyone up to a high degree of awareness so that they are well drilled before they go offshore."

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9.45  
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Index 9,424.34 down 25.76  
Hongkong Hang Seng  
Index 600.06 down 24.95  
Amsterdam 150.1  
Sydney AO Index 697.4  
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Sterling 1.4750 down 90pts  
Index 82.7 down 0.2  
DM 3.8 750 down 1.0150  
FF 11.81 down 0.01  
Yen 345.25 down 2.25  
Dollar  
Index 128.9 up 0.2  
DM 2.5245  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling 1.4750  
Dollar DM 2.5200  
INTERCONTINENTAL  
ECU 68.8099  
SWE 7.11572

### INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates  
Bank base rate 9  
Finance houses base rate 10  
Discount market loans week  
fixed 9  
3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2  
Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 9 1/4-9 1/2  
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2  
3 month FF 14 1/4-14 1/2  
US rates  
Bank prime rate 11.00  
Fed funds 9 1/2  
Treasury long bond 10 1/4-10 1/2  
ECB Fixed Rate Sterling  
Export Finance Scheme IV  
Average reference rate for  
interest period September 7 to  
October 4, 1983 inclusive:  
9.719 per cent.

### GOLD

London fixed (per ounce)  
am 392.75 pm 393.50  
close 394.25-2207.25  
New York futures 393.50-50  
Kruggerand (per coin)  
406-407.5 (227.5-276.25)  
Sovereigns (new)  
\$92.50-93.50 (\$52.75-63.50)  
Excludes VAT

### TODAY

Interims: Crowther (John  
Group, Hambro Life Assur-  
ance, Higgs and Hill, House of  
Lose, Laing Properties, Mar-  
lin Albert Holdings, Finsbury  
Amstrad, Duntown Group, Pre-  
cious Metals Trust, Renshaw,  
Save and Prosper, Sterling  
Deposits, Young (R) Holdings.

### ANNUAL MEETINGS

Amersham International, St Er-  
min's Hotel, Caxton Street, SW1  
(noon)  
Anglo Food, Inter-Continental  
Hotel, Hyde Park Corner, W1  
(noon)  
Vancouver Development  
Finance Company, Colchester  
House, 1 London Bridge Walk  
(3.45)  
Cable Electric International, Royal  
Vale Hotel (noon)  
Davy Corporation, Cavendish  
Conference Centre, Duchess  
Street, W1 (noon)  
Ellis Evans, Grand Hotel, Leob-  
er (noon)  
Hendygate Estates, 4 Garsio,  
Plymouth, W1 (noon)  
Higginbotham and Job, 51 Moss Street,  
Paisley, Renfrewshire (12.30)  
Pitco Holdings, Great Queen  
Street, WC2 (noon)  
Roulledge & Keegan Paul, Par-  
tridge House, Holford-on-Thames  
(11.30)  
TTC City of London Trust, Mennell  
House, Puddle Dock, E64 (11.45)  
Victor Products, Church Bank  
Offices, Wellesley, Tyne & Wear  
(11.45)

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of  
State for Energy, is to visit  
China this year to build on the  
already strong links between the  
British and the Chinese oil and  
coal industries.  
Croda International, the  
specialist chemicals group  
which last year successfully  
fought off an £80m takeover bid  
from the Japanese, has com-  
pleted the sale of its synthetic  
chemicals division to Royal  
Dutch Shell for £14.5m.  
The International Monetary  
Fund has relaxed its refusal to  
make new loans with borrowed  
funds to allow Portugal and  
some other smaller countries to  
take the loans they have already  
negotiated.  
Market Report,  
page 14

# Bank intervenes as pound's 90-point fall takes dealers by surprise

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Frances Williams

Starting under pressure in nervous foreign exchange markets yesterday, leaving dealers unprepared and uncertain over its future direction. At one point the Bank of England was reported to be intervening to smooth sterling's fall, and by the afternoon the pound was managing a modest recovery. It closed 90 points lower against a firmer dollar at \$1.4750 for a two-day fall of 2.4 cents.

The pound's trade-weighted value against a basket of currencies slipped 0.2 to 82.7, the lowest for more than five months.

Dealers were at a loss to explain fully the downward pressure. However, the timing of the rate cut on Monday,

## UK RESERVES

	£m	£m	Change
1982			
Jan	15,854	11,049	-143
Feb	16,578	10,538	-278
Mar	17,237	11,702	-287
Apr	17,656	11,303	-319
May	17,084	11,160	-218
June	17,114	11,458	-210
July	17,040	11,738	-228
Aug	16,008	12,067	-60
Sept	17,402	11,876	-187

Reserves revealed each  
month  
Source: Treasury

yesterday with publication of the official reserves for August. These show a modest underlying fall in the reserves of \$76m, compared with a small rise of \$28m the previous month.

The fall, which provides a rough and ready guide to the Bank of England's operations in the foreign exchange markets, reflected a steady weakening of the pound over the month, despite a sharp recovery on Monday, as the average value against a basket of European currencies fell by nearly 2 per cent, although it was little changed against the dollar.

The downward drift was most pronounced towards the end of the month as the markets came increasingly to expect a cut in base rates.

Britain's reserves of gold and foreign currencies amounted to \$17,902m (£11,975m) at the end of September, a drop of \$107m from August. This includes new foreign borrowings of \$52m and repayments of

\$51m by official organizations under the exchange cover scheme. Those are stripped out of the underlying \$76m change.

Much of sterling's fall yesterday occurred overnight and in the early morning in Europe. At one point it touched \$1.4710 against the dollar before it recovered, and against the Deutschmark it reached DM3.8650 before closing 1 1/2 pence lower on the day at DM3.8750.

Some dealers were speculating that the snowball effect could take the present fragile sterling still lower. However, other analysts were suggesting that sterling was already beginning to find a new level and that most of the nervousness was over.

## Lloyd's firms to reveal accounts

By Andrew Cornelius

syndicates and members seems working in the Lloyd's of London insurance market must open their books to the public from next year.

In the latest of a series of moves aimed at curbing abuses at Lloyd's, the 28-man ruling council yesterday endorsed a proposal that annual reports of syndicates and members' agents should be lodged in a central registry at Lloyd's. Members of the public and individual names (who put money into the market) will be able to study the reports.

Mr Ian Davison, chief executive of Lloyd's, said that the proposal replaced the previous suggestion that Lloyd's should establish a central register of agents' interests, with a separate private register which quantified the value of these interests. Instead, he said, all the relevant disclosures would be included in the annual reports of syndicates with nothing withheld from the public.

The annual reports will include full disclosure of the material interests of underwriting agents and the benefits they receive from syndicates. Individual names will also be able to compare the performance of the Lloyd's syndicates to judge where they might receive the best returns from their investments in the insurance market.

Under present arrangements, names are presented only with information about the performance of their own syndicate and must rely upon a professional table put together by the Association of Members of Lloyd's to judge between syndicates. Latest figures from the association show average returns from Lloyd's syndicates

can vary from as little as £45 for each £10,000 line of business transacted to as much as £1,100 for each £10,000 line with the more successful syndicates.

Mr Davison said that two years ago this amount of disclosure would have been unthinkable. "We will be unwrapping the whole lot," he said.

The Rules Committee of Lloyd's has been instructed to draw up procedures to implement the council's decision so that the new rules apply to all 1983 accounts published in the first half of 1984.

A new Lloyd's Accounting and Auditing Standards Committee will be established to advise agents and syndicates on the preparation of accounts to meet the new requirements.

In another move announced yesterday Lloyd's gave notice of the 11th acquisition of Topham and Hastings, a Chicago-based firm of loss adjusters from the Getty Oil company. Mr Davison said that the acquisition would be funded by the Corporation of Lloyd's borrowing funds in the US.

## New threat to British Steel's joint US deal

From Edward Townsend, Vienna

The European Commission's recent approval of the £170m rebuilding of the British Steel Corporation's Port Talbot strip mill in West Glamorgan would prove to be another delaying factor in the proposed joint steel venture between Britain and the United States.

The Port Talbot development, one of the largest RSC investments for some time, will take several years to complete. Meanwhile, BSC may find that it needs the strip mill capacity at its giant recession-hit Ravenscroft operation in Llanarkshire, the main source of steel slabs for the proposed deal with United States Steel Corporation.

Mr Robert Haslam, the RSC chairman, who is in Vienna for the seventeenth annual conference of the International Iron and Steel Institute, said yesterday that this proposal, which would involve RSC in a multi-million pound investment in the American steel industry, had an even chance of proceeding.

Reversely, Haslam has been in trouble since the closure of the former Chrysler car factory at Linwood, near Glasgow, described it as a big customer. The planned deal with United States Steel provides a market for semi-finished steel slabs from the plant, which the Government ordered to be kept open, although the strip mill would close.

Mr Haslam, who inherited the United States deal from his predecessor, Mr Ian MacGregor, described it as "one of the most complex I have ever seen".

A summit meeting between Mr Haslam and Mr David Rodger, chairman and chief executive of US Steel, will be held next month when a final decision on the project will be made.

Mr Haslam said that another significant factor was the need to reach an agreeable balance of the assets that the two partners would be committing to the joint venture.

Meanwhile, plans are at an advanced stage for the partial privatisation of nationalised steel-making activities. It is believed that under the proposed "Phoenix" operation, the state interests of BSC and ISI would be merged, with BSC possibly owning 75 per cent of the entity.

## Sears benefits from spending spree

By Jonathan Clark

Sears Holdings, with interests from Selfridges to Freeman, Hardy & Willis, yesterday became the first of the big clothing retailers to show the effects of the spending boom in both profits and dividends.

Its customers spent heavily in the second half of its shoe shops, fashion chains and across the counter of its 828 William Hill betting shops. Sears benefited both from the post-war boom at the beginning of the first half and from the hot summer spell.

Customers bought new shoes to keep the water out and later came back for summer casuals. The bookies benefited from more predictable conditions than the previous year.

Profits of £60.3m for the half against £53.2m compare with £51.4m for the year of 1982. Profits forecasts for the year of £130m have been upgraded to £150m, or more although much depends on the important Christmas quarter.

The dividend had been increased by 50 per cent adjusted for last year's scrip issue.

Profits from the footwear business in the first six months increased from £19.5m to £22.6m, including a 11.8 per cent rise in US shoe profits from Butler to £4.8m, helped by the strong dollar.

The department stores - Selfridges and 10 Lewis's outlets - increased profits by 74 per cent to £3.3m. However, the Lewis's stores again made a loss, despite a reorganization. Lewis's made £2m for the year last time and should be in the black again after Christmas.

The fashion chains - Wallis and Miss Selfridge - also did well with profits 380 per cent up at £2.4m. But Richard Shops, under Sir Terence Conran's direction, will soon start to compete directly with them.

William Hill, which includes the Playboy club bought last year for £6m, increased profits from £2.8m to £3.7m though turnover would have been down but for the acquisition.

The motor business - Ford and Vauxhall dealers and a car delivery service - were little changed at £4.5m. But sales were up by 25 per cent against the national average increase of 18 per cent while the second half will be helped by August's heavy "A" plate registrations.

Sears jewelry business is weak like the other high street jewellers. There is still a question mark over the rumour of the engineering interests.

Sears Holdings  
Half-year to 31.7.83  
Profit £60.3m (£53.2m)  
Share earnings 2.5p (1.5p)  
Turnover £255m (£247m)  
Net income dividend 0.7p (0.7p)  
Share price 83 1/2 up 6p

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## Blue chips start rally

New York (AP) Dow Jones

Shares on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday were extending early gains in a rally that stretched from the blue-chips to the rest of the market. Turnover remained moderate.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up by about 8 points. Advancing issues had a 2-to-1 lead over decliners.

Citigroup led the list of most active shares, being down 8-8 at 55-58. Citibank is a leader of

## WALL STREET

the banking group which is negotiating Argentina's debt rescheduling.

Among other big banks, Chemical was unchanged at 42. Manufacturers Hanover, up 1-4 at 39-42 and Chase Manhattan off 1-8, at 48-49.

Boeing was ahead by 7-8 at 41-53. Shell Oil down 3-4 at 34-36. Amstar up 1-4 at 46-47. Continental Air up 1-8 at 4-4.

## Christies shares in better art market

By Wayne Linton

After hitting rock bottom last year, the reputation of the international fine art market continued to improve, at least according to Christie's International.

Reporting substantially improved first-half profits, Mr John Flay, the chairman said that "in every part of the world where the company operates there are encouraging signs of an upturn in business".

This said that Christie's was confident that it would have another good autumn season resulting in an overall record for

## HOW A BANK'S BOOKS BALANCE

Liabilities  
Deposits 88  
Other accounts 8  
Capital and reserves 100

Assets  
Loans 78  
Liquid assets 18  
Property and investments 4

Bank which led to the withdrawal of deposits. Banks can fail for a number of reasons. One possible cause much discussed over the past year is if a bank has to write off a large amount of loans to a developing country because the loans were deemed worthless.

The table gives a simplified illustration of a typical bank balance sheet. If 10 of the 78 loans had to be written off, the loss would have to be absorbed with capital and reserves. These

## ConsGold pays chief £405,000

By Michael Prest

Consolidated Gold Fields, the mining and industrial group, has agreed to pay \$594,000 (£405,000) to Mr David Lloyd-Jacob, the former chairman and chief executive of Gold Fields America Corporation. Mr Lloyd-Jacob left the company last year after profits collapsed.

The payment, which is said to be the equivalent of two years' earnings, is revealed in the latest annual report. In the report, Mr Rudolf Agnew, chairman and chief executive of Cons Gold, says that the company will continue to pay a bonus to Mr Lloyd-Jacob as a mining finance house.

The group's earlier policy of diversification into manufacturing in the United States proved to be a failure. Mr Lloyd-Jacob's downfall. Cons Gold made provisions of £87m against Skytop Brewster, a Texas maker of oil-drilling equipment which it has so far failed to sell.

Mr Lloyd-Jacob has been paid \$394,000 and has received a loan of \$200,000 repayable on November 9, 1984, and carrying interest of 1 per cent below the US prime rate. Another \$22,000 will be paid in November next year.

In the annual report, Mr Agnew says: "It is our intention to compensate the bulk of our investment in mining and construction material."

To repay depositors they can draw on a buffer in the form of their liquid assets (18 in our example).

However, once the buffer is exhausted, they may simply have to close their doors because most of their assets are in the form of loans, many of which will not be due for repayment for some time.

Central bankers are acutely aware of this danger and problems spreading throughout the system. The West's leading central banks have made clear in the past that resources are available to provide temporary support for banks meeting liquidity problems.

The danger of the problems of one bank spreading throughout the system, leading to a general loss of confidence, explains why banks are rarely allowed to fail.

## City Editor's Comment

# Hongkong dominoes start to fall

Less than three months ago, the Hang Seng index of HongKong share prices stood around 1100. Yesterday, after the sixth successive day of losses, it plunged below 700.

Rarely can there have been so dramatic a loss of confidence and, more worryingly, it is clear that the colony's actions to shore up the system, by taking over the ailing Hang Lang bank and raising interest rates by 2 per cent to stop a run on the currency, have yet to make much impact.

Yesterday's drop had one consolation. After the index fell 34 points in the first hour of trading, it looked as though Monday's 45 point drop might be left far behind. But this proved the worst and prices recovered slightly to leave the Hang Seng down 24.95 points on the day at 690.6. Its worst level this year. And prices of HongKong shares were slightly firmer in London last night, largely as a result of a slight firming in the HongKong dollar.

The origin of all this, the nerve-racking Anglo-Chinese talks over the colony's future when the treaties start running out in 14 years' time, has now been left behind.

The worries are now caused by actual, if sometimes consequential, events: the bank troubles and their ripple effects; the falling currency which threatens inflation and money supply problems; and the rise in interest rates itself, which has increased the financial difficulties of the already shaky-looking property companies.

The idea that Hongkong could be peacefully transferred to mainland China as an enclave of capitalism so pure that it had become Professor Milton Friedman's star exhibit, always looked unrealistic. It became more so as the emphasis on finance and property intensified.

Those who should have known better trumpeted the irrelevance of the looming

treaty problem, claiming that they would easily get their money back on even the most ambitious property project, so great was the booming demand for land redevelopment, one of HongKong's scarcest commodities.

Yet, as Britain discovered in the early seventies, financial institutions built on the apparent security of bricks and mortar, though at inflated prices, are the shakiest of all. Property is a numbers game and if the numbers go wrong, it is hard to stop the ensuing domino effect.

That effect, oddly enough, may be easier to counteract in HongKong than it was in Britain. Fantastic financial bubbles and bursts in the past have been taken with far more equanimity in HongKong than they would be in Britain, where we were not used to such financial switchbacks. The economy and traders to HongKong have, after all, prospered partly because of their legendary flexibility.

Nonetheless, the changes on this occasion are of a far greater order than before. The government has begun to act as lender of last resort and is at least studying the idea of establishing a central bank for the first time in all but name.

Sir John Brembridge, the financial secretary drawn from industry, is understandably cautious about such a momentous step. But clearly that phase of the economy which rested on confidence and momentum has come to an end. There is plenty more to Hongkong and that will continue.

The present blood-letting had to take place some. It will serve a useful purpose if it convinces policymakers that their idea of simply perpetuating the present economic system under new ownership was never more than an ill thought-out dream.

## Republic's gas may be piped to Belfast

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Plans have been revived to build a pipeline connecting Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic's only natural gas field, off County Cork. An agreement is expected to be announced this month by Mrs Thatcher after the Anglo-Irish talks in London.

The prospect of Belfast and the other main towns in Northern Ireland being connected to natural gas supplies were first discussed in 1969 when the Kinsale field came into operation.

At that time, it was estimated to cost £150m to build a 300-

mile long pipeline from Kinsale to Belfast. British Gas has ruled out as uneconomic a link between Northern Ireland and the mainland natural gas system.

In 1980, the Government accepted the British Gas view that it would be more economic to phase out the use of gas in Northern Ireland than to build a pipeline to the mainland.

Two independent reports came to differing conclusions. One report said that connecting the province to the mainland gas network would bring in benefits worth £51m.

The other said that the province's electricity and coal industries would lose £187m a year if natural gas was brought in.

At present, gas is supplied to Northern Ireland by 13 companies, owned privately or by local authorities. They supply Town gas derived from naphtha which is three times more expensive than natural gas.

The Northern Ireland Office yesterday denied any knowledge of the new proposals, but the province's Department of Economic Development said that a deal "is close".

## Hongkong highlights need for confidence

# The biggest threat faced by banks

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Turbulent financial markets and the problems caused by the developing country debt crisis have brought the spectre of banks going bust increasingly to the fore over the past couple of years.

Above all, recent events have highlighted the crucial importance of confidence in banking. Last week the HongKong Government announced it was taking over Hang Lung Bank because it was unable to meet its liabilities. The bank's problems date from September last year when it suffered a two-day run on its deposits.

Over the weekend it emerged that another bank, Suning Kung Kai Bank, which is part of the leading HongKong overseas group, was being rescued with a £16.6m support package. The reason given was "unfounded rumours about Suning Kung Kai

## HOW A BANK'S BOOKS BALANCE

Liabilities	Assets
Deposits 88	Loans 78
Other accounts 8	Liquid assets 18
Capital and reserves 100	Property and investments 4

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# NATIONAL Girobank

National Girobank announces that with effect from 4th October 1983.

## Base Rate

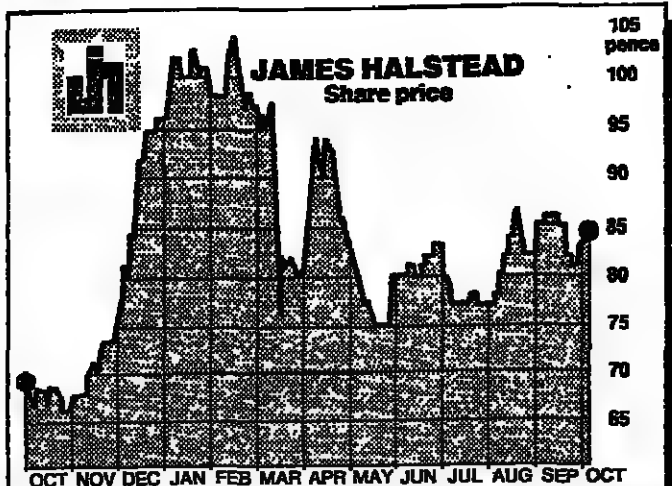
Its base rate was reduced from 9 1/4% to 9% per annum.

## Deposit Accounts

The rate of interest payable on deposit accounts is reduced to 6% per annum.

10 Milk Street LONDON EC2V 8JH

# Gilts recover after base rate cut



whether inflationary expectations have been broken, and an international debt crisis could upset interest rates. In the cynics' view, the unanimity of international policy is too good to last.

## James Halstead Group

James Halstead Group Year to 30.6.83  
Pre-tax profit £2.3m (1.8m)  
Turnover £27.8m (22.2m)  
Net final dividend 1.75p making 3p (3p)  
Share price 84p down 5p Yield 5.1%  
Dividend payable 9.12.83

James Halstead Group made record pre-tax profits of £2.3m (£1.8m last time) in the year to June 30. The results owe much to a strong performance from

## Arthur Bell

Arthur Bell & Sons Year to 30.6.83  
Pre-tax profit £31.3m (£27.6m)  
Turnover £246.7m (£245.6m)  
Net dividend 4.1p  
Share price 135p down 8p. Yield 4.2%

Full-year results yesterday from Arthur Bell did nothing to reverse the market's view that the Scotch whisky group has run out of growth. This view has been reinforced increasingly in the company's share price over the last six months and the shares fell a further 8p to 135p. Pre-tax profits for the year to the end of last June are up from £27.6m to £31.3m. But the whole of this increase derived from price rises in home and export markets and an increase in interest received on the group's £30m cash mountain.

in the current year. Losses from Averoy and Wigwam for the year to October 1982 are expected to total about £600,000, which will almost certainly swallow any further growth from the floor coverings side.

The built-in time lag for reporting the holiday division profits means it will be difficult for the group to match the £2.3m pre-tax profits achieved in the current year. But at yesterday's closing price of 84p the shares are in the middle of their range for the year and offer a strong yield of 5.1 per cent. They sell on a price earnings ratio of 10.8.

now worth nearly 30p a share. Volume, for the first time in many years, was virtually unchanged, a 5 per cent fall in the home market being balanced by higher exports.

This is admittedly considerably better than the performance of the industry as a whole, but it does not live up to the growth stock rating once put on the shares.

A further rise of perhaps £3m in profits can be expected this year, but against the main impetus will come from price increases and financial items.

Moreover, although the group will make more progress in export markets, its 22 per cent share of the British market is plainly under threat from Distillers, which will spearhead a new onslaught on the market with the relaunch of Johnnie Walker Red Label next month. Mr Raymond Miquel, the Arthur Bell chairman, thinks the relaunch will be a non-event, but Distillers' ability to recapture lost British market share should not be underestimated.

The temptation to splash the £30m of cash on an acquisition must be great, but it is difficult to see where Bell could invest the money to earn the return on capital employed of well over 20 per cent that it makes on whisky.

It is still clearly the company's aim to make Bell's into a leading brand in the U.S. Attempts to do this have suffered a number of false starts, but given the company's legendary ability for hard slog, it is worth staying with the shares to see if this ambition can be realized.

## COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		FUTURES		LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL	
Commodity	Unit	Commodity	Unit	Commodity	Unit
Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per cwt		Oil	Barrel	Gold	1000 oz
Cash		Crude		1000 oz	
Nov	100.75	Nov	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Dec	100.75	Dec	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Jan	100.75	Jan	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Feb	100.75	Feb	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Mar	100.75	Mar	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Apr	100.75	Apr	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
May	100.75	May	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Jun	100.75	Jun	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Jul	100.75	Jul	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Aug	100.75	Aug	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Sep	100.75	Sep	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Oct	100.75	Oct	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Nov	100.75	Nov	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Dec	100.75	Dec	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Jan	100.75	Jan	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Feb	100.75	Feb	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Mar	100.75	Mar	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Apr	100.75	Apr	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
May	100.75	May	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Jun	100.75	Jun	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Jul	100.75	Jul	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Aug	100.75	Aug	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Sep	100.75	Sep	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Oct	100.75	Oct	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Nov	100.75	Nov	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Dec	100.75	Dec	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Jan	100.75	Jan	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
Feb	100.75	Feb	24.50	1000 oz	1067.2
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May	100.75	May			



















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## WHY TRAVEL TO TOWN WHEN YOU CAN WORK FOR A LARGE INTERNATIONAL COMPANY BASED IN HARROW?

If you are in your mid-20's, vivacious, presentable and looking for a career as an executive secretary to our Sales Director, THEN READ ON...

After several years in Mayfair our head office is now based in Harrow but we still have the "London" salaries and perks, which reflect the nature of this position. The person appointed must be able to work on their own initiative, be capable of dealing with people at all levels and prepared to do some travelling. Good shorthand and typing skills, pleasant telephone manner and a flexible attitude are essential.

Applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should be made in writing to:

The Personnel Director  
The Tupperware Company  
130 College Road, Harrow HA1 1BQ

## Sales Office Administrator/Secretary c. £9,000 Ealing

To ensure the efficient running of the UK sales office of a Dutch wallcovering company, your wide range of responsibilities will include taking telephone orders and enquiries, general correspondence and office administration.

A demanding and interesting job, responsible to the UK Manager, it will appeal to a secretary, aged 27 to 30, who will have the opportunity to use initiative and organisational skills. Must be used to small office environment, be sales oriented and able to use memory typewriter and fax.

Remuneration package of basic salary plus profit sharing and holiday bonus.

Please write - in confidence - with full career details and contact telephone number to David Bencell ref. A43738.

The appointment is open to men and women.

HAY-MSL Selection and Advertising Limited,  
52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0AW.

Offices in Europe, the Americas, Africa, Australia and Asia Pacific.

**HAY-MSL**

MANAGEMENT SELECTION

CONVEYANCING SECRETARIES

As Secretary to our Senior Conveyancing Partner, in addition to sound secretarial skills of 100/60 and 3 years' conveyancing experience, you will need a confident personality and flexibility to enable you to take on responsibility and work under pressure. There is opportunity to make use of organising and administrative skills in this often demanding position.

We are also seeking an adaptable, experienced Conveyancing Audio Secretary, preferably with a short-hand, to float within the department, assisting wherever the need arises and covering for absence.

Competitive salaries offered commensurate with ability, age and experience.

For further information please telephone or write with full CV to Miss Worle, Cranewood, Solihull, 1, Harley Street, London, W1, Tel 01-437 5388.

**ALFRED MARKS**

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

INTELLIGENT, AMBITIOUS, ENTHUSIASTIC?

ARE YOU frustrated with the lack of job satisfaction and scope for initiative?  
CAN YOU take it at all levels?  
ARE YOU ready?

£8,500 + in CITY  
£7,500 + in ILFORD

WANT to join the team and later lead your own?  
SOL, we want to hear from you NOW!

Our exciting, fast moving Secretarial College is looking for bright, well motivated people to promote our training and advice companies in London and Essex area.

Previous experience is not essential as full training will be given.

Ring Beverly Gaynor, Cranbrook Secretarial College 01-250 0390

**BANKING GROUP IN CITY**

Need mature confident Secretary with good skills for one of our divisions. Must be calm and unflappable. Salary £25,000.

Ring 01-408 1813

**Senior Secretaries**

**£11,000+ SEC/ADMIN/RSH**

Exceptional opportunity for an experienced Secretary to a Partner of a Specialist Planning, marketing and advertising company. You will have every chance to get involved in the company's growth and development. The City at heart level and must have good 100/60. Age 25-35.

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**AMERICAN LAW £8,500**

If you are a bright, enthusiastic Secretary (age 25/24) with good typing and shorthand skills, and a keen interest in the legal profession, you will be a valuable asset to a busy law firm. Working in a dynamic team of young lawyers, you will be fully involved in the exciting and challenging field of international business. Excellent salary £8,500 and a flexible benefit package to suit you. Excellent opportunity to work in a dynamic team of young lawyers. Lovely office close to Cannon Street.

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## Secretary

PIMLICO £7,400

A vacancy has arisen for a well qualified shorthand Secretary to one of our most Senior Executives. Applicants should have at least 4 good 'O' level passes (including English Language) but we would be keen to hear from candidates with 'A' levels or possibly degrees. The post calls for fast and accurate shorthand typing speeds, and a confident, pleasant manner plus good communicative skills. The vacancy would probably best suit a young well qualified secretary seeking experience of working at a senior level, although we would be pleased to hear from well qualified recent college leavers.

The offices are situated close to Vauxhall Bridge, and together with an attractive salary, we offer the terms and conditions normally associated with a large progressive organisation.

Please write with full details to Paula Rock, Personnel Officer (Secretarial) British Gas H.O., 59 Bryanston Street, London W1A 2AZ, quoting reference: CH102001. Closing date: 19th October 1983. No agencies please.

**BRITISH GAS**

## Secretary/PA to M.D. Advertising Agency W1

One of London's top agencies is looking for a Secretary, 25+, smart, with impeccable shorthand/typing and charming telephone manner.

It is a busy, responsible job with lots of client contact and we are situated in super office in the Baker Street area. Excellent salary plus BUPA.

Please send cv to:

Eve Phyllis  
Abbott Mead Vickers/SMS  
32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL

## TANDEM COMPUTERS INCORPORATED

The new European Marketing and Administration Headquarters of this fast growing Company has requirement for a top class secretary to assist the Regional Director and three other members of the executive team in their Central London Office.

Previous experience at Director level will be useful, as excellent secretarial skills, organisational ability and a good educational standard are essential qualifications. The ability to act responsibly on your own initiative, plus a pleasant personality and a good appearance are necessary. Possibility of occasional foreign travel.

Salary will reflect the responsibility of this position. Please apply in writing with CV to the Personnel Officer, Tandem Computers Ltd, Peel House, 32-34 Church Road, Northolt, Middlesex.

## EXPERIENCED SECRETARY/PA

to busy American lawyer, must be efficient and responsible with excellent secretarial skills and able to work under pressure. £9,000 + performance bonus.

Please write enclosing CV to:

A Khanmeh  
2 Temple Gardens EC4

## PA TO MD High Tech Leisure Windsor, £8,500

My client is the Managing Director of a well known computer company, manufacturing a range of products in the video and computer industries. He is opening his new office in the centre of Windsor and he needs someone to look after him.

You will be an all rounder with sound secretarial skills (no shorthand) with excellent organising and planning abilities. If you can't operate on word, you must be able to operate on a computer. You will be a good listener, capable, personable and, and probably over 30.

This is a very exciting job. Please call me.

Yvonne Clark, Clark & Rich Associates Ltd

Personnel Consultants

Tel: Windsor 51212

**CUSTOMER SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES**

Large food processing company requires people with smart, professional approach and good personality to provide efficient support and training. Experience in the food industry and an aptitude for programming an advantage. This is a very challenging position which provides an excellent salary and company car. Age 25-35.

Please contact: Vivian Mayes or Anne Thomas

Recruitment Consultants

In The Parade, Haven Green, Ealing, London W5.

Tel: 01-997 5604/01-991 1734

**Types**

**SENIOR PA/SEC**

To busy American lawyer, must be efficient and responsible with excellent secretarial skills and able to work under pressure. £9,000 + performance bonus.

Please write enclosing CV to:

A Khanmeh

2 Temple Gardens EC4

**PA/SEC**

To busy American lawyer, must be efficient and responsible with excellent secretarial skills and able to work under pressure. £9,000 + performance bonus.

Please write enclosing CV to:

A Khanmeh

2 Temple Gardens EC4

**BOOKKEEPER**

With accurate typing, to join progressive company in London.

Please write enclosing CV to:

133 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

Ref: C20

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PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS

current vacancies:

\* Chief Executive Communications Company. SEC/PA. £9,000-£10,000.

\* Admin and PR Director, publishing co. SEC/PA. £9,000.

\* Personnel Executive, international computer co. £9,000.

For further details please telephone 01-734 9488.

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Our years of helping people to make the right career move have given us a wealth of expertise - expertise which is now being called on by our clients. The message is simple - if you want to get ahead, get us behind you.

**TELETYPE** £29,000  
Ideal for the unfatigable, serious young Secretary, with admin flair and good formal skills, prepared to assist anything that's buzzing in a bright progressive production office. Confidentiality is a must.

**ARCHITECTS** £29,000  
Superb conditions and more than enough challenges to appeal to the elegant, personable who needs a really responsible PA role. Initiative, drive and dedication will be well rewarded.

**LIAISON** £27,000  
A senior post, at Partner level, in a prestigious professional firm, to interact the diplomatic senior Secretary able to handle client and personal issues at all levels. Initiative and excellent presentation are pre-requisites.

**LIBRARY** £27,000  
An engaging mind must combine with organisational skills when one is actively assisting with the running of the busy reference library of a major company, to include researching, up-dating and effectively filing requests for diverse information. Previous relevant experience and some typing an advantage.

**OUR TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS...**  
Whether Academic, Marketing/PR, Research, Information, Oil, Financial, High-Tech, Legal, Medical, Political, etc... continue to be of interest to skilled SECRETARIAL or WORD PROCESSING personnel who seek prestige Temporary work at the highest rates.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact any of our branches throughout Central London or call in or phone one of the branches below.

19-23 Oxford St. W1. Tel: 01-437 9030

30 Bush Lane, EC4. Tel: 01-626 8315

**Recruitment Consultants**

**Challoners**

**MORTGAGE** £29,000

A senior Director of this international bank needs a well educated Secretary. You will be required to learn their W/F as well as being able to deal with confidential banking matters at a very high level. Speeds 110/60, age 28/38.

**COBOLD AND DAVIS**

Recruitment Ltd, 35 Bruton Place, London, W1. 01-493 7789

**BERKELEY SQUARE** £29,000

This well known international firm of consultants needs a highly motivated Secretary who thrives on good delegation and a busy workload. Speeds 90/70, age 24/35.

**CDR**

**Legal PA/Secretary**

We are a friendly, medium sized, City firm of Solicitors, situated close to Liverpool St. Station, and we currently require a secretary to work for a company/commercial Partner.

The post would suit someone aged 25+ with company/commercial experience, is looking for variety and interest in their work. Applicants should possess organisational ability and be capable of using initiative when necessary, to provide full secretarial assistance.

Fast, accurate audio-typing is essential, preferably with some shorthand, and training (if needed) will be given on the Wordplex 80-S word processor.

Excellent Salary + bonus + LVS + STL.

Please contact the Personnel Dept on:

01-377 9490

**GORDON YATES**

SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT

Are you a thoroughly professional, efficient, and hard working individual with a proven track record in the secretarial field? If so, we would like to hear from you. We are looking for a highly motivated, efficient, and hard working individual to join our team. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please send your CV to: Gordon Yates, 35 Old Bond Street, W1. Tel: 01-493 5787.

Richard Grace

Gordon Yates Ltd, 35 Old Bond Street, W1

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS 01 493 5787

**ARE YOU A PARAGON? £10,000**

Our client, the Managing Director of an International Company seeks a PA/Secretary. You should be a good communicator, well presented and sophisticated with solid experience at Director or Chairman level. He will use you very much as a sounding board and will expect your secretarial skills to be a minimum of 100/60. Age 28-40.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants

18 Grosvenor Street London W1 Telephone 01-499 8070

**INTERNATIONAL COMPANY IN EUSTON REQUIRE**

1. Senior Secretary to Personnel Director aged 25-45 £9,000+.

2. Finance Secretary £9,000+ will accept C/L with SH.

3. Secretary for Insurance dept with good sec skills 20+ £7,000.

4. Legal dept Secretary with SH will train on WP. 20+ £7,000+.

The above company also give London weighting, sub restaurant, pension scheme and STL.

For full details on all of the above ring

Mrs Mitchell on 439 8871

Kingsland Personnel Cons

**PERSONNEL £8,200**

Increment and responsibility offered to excellent PA/Sec with initiative and competent secretarial skills. Must have good shorthand skills for Personal Manager of well known US co. W22-35.

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(Rec. Cons.)

**JAYGAR**

**RECRUITMENT INTERVIEWER**

We are in the business of finding people jobs in the fields of accountancy and office staff, and are looking for the right member of a closely knit team. Experience in sales, accountancy or recruitment would be useful. Most important is the kind of brain which "finds a way" added to resilience, humour and the will to work hard. Basic salary to £9,000 + profit share. Age 24+.

Telephone City 283 8111

LOVE & TATE APPOINTMENTS

**PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION**

I am looking for an Assistant in the Personnel/Administration area to allow me to develop other aspects of my work. The right candidate will be a good typist, preferably an experienced Secretary who has had some office responsibility. A flexible attitude is essential as is a knowledge of word processing and other office technology. Write with CV to: Teresa Harvey, David J. Edwards Ltd, Stange House, Stange Place, London, W2 2HL. Tel: 725 3444.

**INTERIOR DESIGN**

Versatile person required to manage retail shop in Barnes SW13, Tues-Sat. Administrative ability essential. Interest in interior decoration assumed. Salary £7,000 negotiable.

Tel: 01-878 7766

**Can you resist the pastries and speak French?**

Belgium has so much to offer, particularly if you join this famous international company where you will be able to combine a challenging job with a friendly atmosphere. You must have excellent shorthand/typing skills and a year's secretarial experience. Free accommodation for a month as you settle in and a useful bonus twice a year will help you to get on your feet. Preferred age 20-25.

Ring 01-481 7100

(Recruitment Consultants)

**TOP ADMINISTRATIVE**

required for exclusive fashion showroom opposite The Bank of England. Must be very well trained, elegant and highly motivated. Minimum age 25. Age 20+, Salary £2,000 + per annum negotiable. Good references essential.

Telephone 01-236 2205

for appointment only

**Sophisticated, attractive SALESWOMAN**

required for prestigious retail shop in the City. Must be well trained, elegant and highly motivated. Minimum age 25. Age 20+, Salary £2,000 + per annum negotiable. Good references essential.

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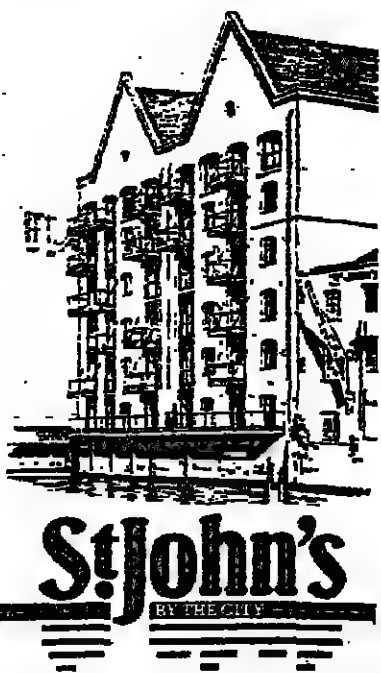
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## Country Properties

10











# 'It doesn't seem 25 years, I feel I should be serving champagne'



Flying memories: Miss Thorne boarding Concorde yesterday

## Concorde celebrates Comet's first Atlantic jet flight

By Michael Bailey and Richard Evans

The transatlantic jet age is a quarter of a century old this week and British Airways celebrated with a special Concorde flight to New York yesterday.

It was 25 years to the day since the first passenger-carrying jet, a De Havilland Comet 4 of BOAC, opened a new era of fast air travel across the Atlantic from 1.3 to 18.5 million passengers a year.



Flying history: Stewardess Peggy Thorne and Captain Tom Stoney after the first Atlantic jet crossing in 1958.

"We never dreamed it would be half again to about three hours by Concorde. We worked very hard that day, but today I am just going to sit back and enjoy being a passenger."

BOAC's Comet was by a whisker an exciting race with PanAm's first Boeing 707 which crossed to Paris on a test flight the same day but without fare-paying passengers.

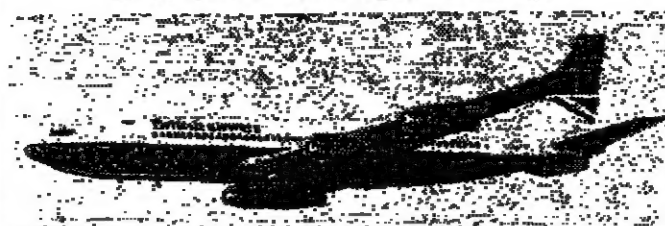
Comet's victory was short-lived however. The bigger, faster Boeing replaced the Comet on BOAC's Atlantic service after only two years. The Comets were moved to eastern routes where its shorter range and smaller carrying capacity was more suitable.

The Boeing 707 was joined in 1965 by the VC10. In 1970, by the Boeing 747 jumbo jet went into service soon to become the equivalent of the old Queens of the Atlantic. In 1976 Concorde began its service and in 1979, Tristar, BA's new Boeing 747-200, and BA have crossed the Atlantic 100,000 times and carried 19 million passengers.

The round-trip by Comet was little over a tenth of Concorde's: £279 15s compared with £2,363. But a London hotel charged £1.50 for bed and breakfast in those days, and a



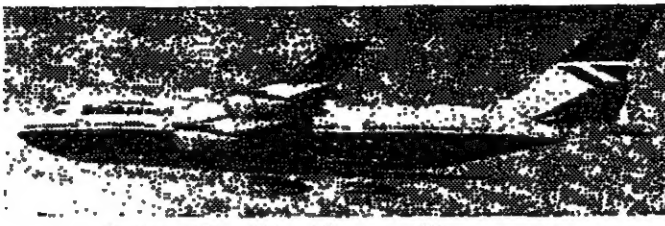
Comet 4, 1958-60, 500 mph, 81 passengers



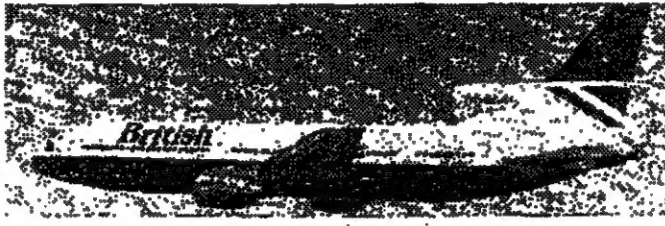
Boeing 707, 1960, 540 mph, 146 passengers



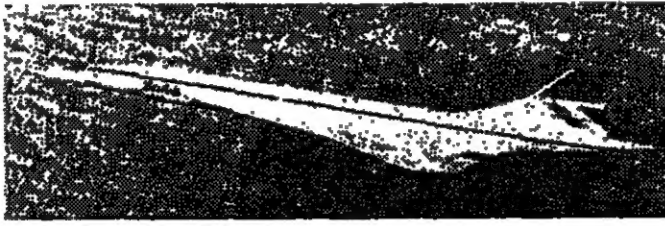
VC10, 1965-81, 550 mph, 139 passengers



Boeing 747, 1970, 570 mph, 400 passengers



Tristar, 1979, 570 mph, 235 passengers



Concorde, 1976, 1350 mph, 100 passengers

week's skiing in Austria cost £21.

One thing remains the same, however. On the Comets they were already serving champagne, caviar, lobster, and fillet steak.

Miss Thorne sipping that champagne yesterday at twice the speed of sound and 10 miles high, on board Concorde, recalled the first jet passenger flight across the Atlantic.

"It was extremely busy for stewards and stewardesses. We left New York at 7am and my feet never touched the ground. As soon as we were airborne we served champagne."

"It never seems like twenty-five years ago, and standing amongst the cabin crew it does not seem very different. I almost feel I should be joining in serving the passengers."

## Far left still out in cold on NEC

Continued from page 1

deeply ashamed that Labour had allowed Britain's fortunes to rest with the present Government.

He was not going to blame the election defeat solely on the press and the broadcasters, that would be complacent. But he relieved his feelings with an all-out assault on Fleet Street where, he said as a former journalist, the debasement of journalism was worse than he could ever recall. That was loudly applauded.

Mr Foot said that the debate which the Conservatives and the newspapers tried to suppress during the election was now breaking out, wherever nurses, teachers, civil servants, and public authorities met. Mrs Margaret Thatcher's victory had been "a landslide won by deception". The "Iron Lady" picked up her skirts and straddled before taking tough decisions on public spending.

And Mr Foot concluded with the favourite theme of his leadership and of much of his career. The party, he urged, should use all its strength to try to stop the hideous nuclear arms race.

## Chief whip opposed by Kinnock

Continued from page 1

All three men, who have experience in the whip's office, are said to have the necessary qualities of communication and political edge that would be needed to reinforce Mr Kinnock's new leadership, inside and outside the parliamentary party.

But the entry of Mr Flannery, aged 65, into the races makes the uncertain result of the first ballot even more confused. Mr Flannery would be the candidate of the hard-left Campaign group, which has 40 members in the Commons, and 40 votes might be enough to spoil the first ballot chances of Mr Evans and Mr Snape, who are both moderately left-wing.

Meanwhile, the Campaign group was reported last night to have made an unofficial approach to Tribune. Group officers in an attempt to get a combined "state" of left-wing candidates for the Shadow Cabinet election which takes place after the chief whip has been chosen.

## Frank Johnson at Brighton

## Meandering on to the end

Mr Michael Foot and the Labour Party embraced each other, as leader and led, for the last time yesterday. He was given a standing ovation when he rose. When he sat down they gave him another, and sang that he was a jolly good fellow. Mr Kinnock, the son he never had, according to psychologists, journalists and similar authorities on these matters, moved along the platform and clasped his hand.

Mr Foot ushered Mrs Jill Foot forward from the second row of the platform and put his arm around her. They cheered. The cheering continued. She was bidden forward again. On and on continued the ovation. For these minutes, all the warring factions that go to make up the modern Labour movement were united in their affection: Trotskyists, Stalinists or just humble, ordinary Communists.

It would be a hard-hearted soul who did not see the funny side of it. After much further emotion, Mr Foot and the Labour Party went their separate ways at last. Certainly, the affection on Mr Foot's side was real. Was it real on the side of the movement?

A lot of it, yes. This was the only leader since Lansbury to be loved by large sections of the party. But there were a lot of less sentimental people clapping and singing too.

Enthusiastic enemies of Mr Foot from Left and Right. Their joining in the great ovation ensured that, as leader and party pulled away from each other, it was a scene equal in incongruity to the occasion on which Sam Goldwyn, as the liner left Manhattan for Europe, cried out to his executives ashore: "Bon voyage!"

When all the noise stopped, suddenly Mr Foot was, in effect, gone. The end of that speech had been the end of his career.

For Mr Foot, being the last of the notetakers, the career would have ended about a quarter of an hour earlier, had he been able to think of a way of ending his speech. He always did have peroration trouble. Over the years he would launch into the last paragraph only to find that he had put in one sub-clause too many, was trapped, and found it necessary to

change down a gear and re-perorate. So it was yesterday. But, this being his last performance, he was able to admit to the problem. His wife, he said, had told him: "Don't do a Beethoven at the end." He quickly explained: "Because she thinks Beethoven had a bit of difficulty in finishing his symphonies." Many music lovers agree.

So Mr Foot had decided that his finale would consist of a tribute to Mr Kinnock. He had been "captured" by Mr Kinnock's speech on Sunday night after the leadership vote, he said. Mr Kinnock came from Tredgar, he added, a town associated with Mr Foot's constituency of Ebbw Vale. Aneurin Bevan came from Tredgar too, he continued. That proved to be the fatal sub-clause which delayed the finale. Mr Foot suddenly found himself telling a story about how he was once sitting next to Nye in the Commons listening to a Tory who had hardly any neck at all between his head and his shoulders. Bevan had pointed across and exclaimed: "The hangman's problem!" This anecdote turned out not to lead on to anything else in the peroration, to have nothing whatever to do with Mr Kinnock. Tredgar, any aspect of contemporary British politics, or even the case against capital punishment, and was an anecdote none the worse for that.

The explanation was that Mr Foot likes to spread happiness and just thought he would give us a reading from Bevan's Bumper Fun Book.

Earlier, Mr Foot had quoted, without naming him, "one of my favourite poets," who turned out to be Heinrich Heine, on the subject of betrayal (Mr Foot was talking about Dr Owen at the time). Then, showing his breadth of reading, he quoted from another central European savant: Miss Zsa Zsa Gabor, in order to illustrate his belief that Dr Owen was not really a strong as he was trying to look. "Men who try too hard to be macho are generally not much."

When the applause subsided, Mr Sam McCloskey, this year's conference chairman, said a few words. He is an efficient, if salty-tongued Scot from the seamen's union, who has learnt much wisdom in his voyaging around the world.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal Engagements

The Prince of Wales, Patron of the British Film Institute, attends a banquet to celebrate the Institute's 50th Anniversary at Guildhall, London, 7.15.

Princess Anne visits the Bristol Grammar School to open a new building built to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the raising of the school's charter by King Henry VIII, 10, and dines with the Officers of the Royal Artillery at Woolwich, 7.45.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, the Girls' Public Day School Trust, visits Putney High School to open new Assembly Hall, 12.30.

Princess Michael of Kent visits Berisford Limited, Congleton, Cheshire, 11.

New Exhibitions

The George Washington Wilson collection: Victorian Glasgow in photographs, at the Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4, closed Sun (ends Oct 29).

Furniture - Classics of Design; and Johnson Matthew Metals Silver Awards 1982/3, at the Crawford Gallery, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Perth Road, Dundee, Mon to Fri 10 to 4 (ends Oct 14).

Artists 303 25th birthday exhibition of recent paintings and sculpture at the Butlin Gallery, Dilworth House, Ilminster, Somerset, open daily 2-4 pm (ends Oct 26).

An exhibition of paintings by Francis Goullie, City Museum and Art Gallery, Princesgate, Peterborough, Tues to Sat 12 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (ends Oct 29).

The annual exhibition for Peterborough School of Art, City Museum and Art Gallery, Princesgate, Peterborough, Tues to Sat 12 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (ends Oct 29).

Music

Concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham, 7.30.

Record recitals, John Lee Theatre, Birmingham, 1.

Concert by Bill Brookman's Upstanding Webb-Foots Palm Court Orchestra, Town Mill Theatre, Strathavon, Strathclyde, 7.30.

Concert by Scottish National Orchestra, Henry Wood Hall, Glasgow, 7.30.

Concert by Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, 7.45.

Concert by Trinity College of Music Chamber Orchestra, Theatre Royal, Windsor, Berks, 2.

Concert by Jane Coleman (violin), Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster, 1.

General

Visions, presented by Audio Visual Group of the Leicester Forest Photographic Society, South Holland Centre, Lincolnshire, 8.

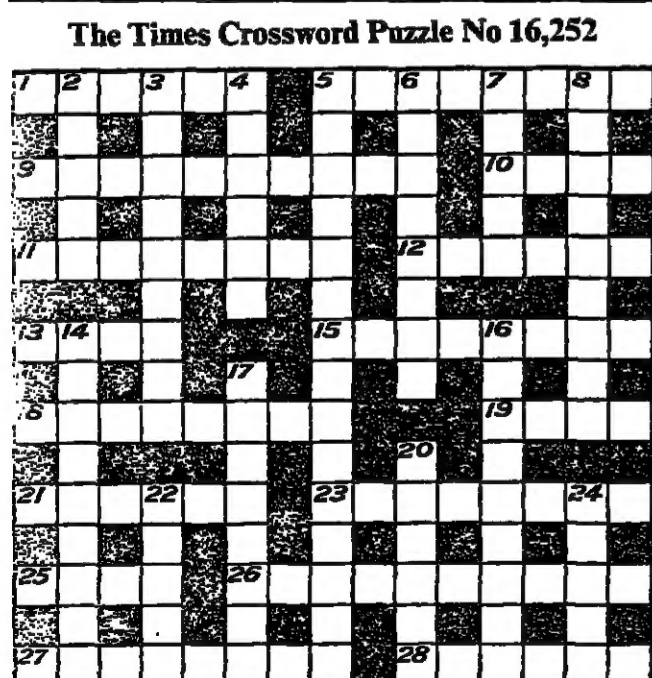
Anniversaries

Births: Denis Diderot, encyclopaedist, Langres, 1713. His great encyclopedia, the fruit of 20 years work, was highly controversial in claiming that the lot of the common people was a nation's chief concern and in taking religious violence and speculative freedom for granted. It was suppressed in 1759 but played its part in the intellectual ferment which led to the French Revolution.

Deaths: Charles, Marquess Cornwallis, 1805. He surrendered at Yorktown in 1781, effectively ending the American War of Independence and later became viceroy of first Ireland and then India. The ship R101 crashed at Beauvais, 1930. The construction of the 5th French Republic came into force.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,251

ACROSS



- 1 Around Brideshead, see return of fairy rings in grass (6).
- 2 Robinson Crusoe - cancelled for good reason? (18).
- 3 Imitation gem deposited in German bank perhaps (10).
- 4 Dig up old street (4).
- 5 Evaluates a couple of points repeatedly presented (8).
- 6 City where craftsmen were put to the sword (6).
- 7 Produce ring from contents of that old box (4).
- 8 Contrived to be in, as showing defiance (8).
- 9 How to draw cards without restriction? (4-4).
- 10 Note reduced word section in this composition (4).
- 11 Feast a couple of pages may be needed for (6).
- 12 Landing here after a flight (8).
- 13 As a rule, point covers some members of the episcopacy (4).
- 14 One's keen to dispose of sideboards (3-5).
- 15 Friends of one engaged in opposition (8).
- 16 Vegetable - one way to make the most of pie (6).

DOWN

2 Mount for a swordsman (5).

3 Lancing chap may uphold this standard (9).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

### New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week

A Dictionary of Medicine, by L. G. Fries (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £29.95)

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, a collaborative edition, edited by Simon Taylor (Boydell & Brewer, £19.95)

The Hill and the Trenches: Revolution and its aftermath, by Kenneth Hudson (Macmillan, £12.95)

The English Farm, by Ralph Whitlock (Dent, £14.95)

The Fortunate Biographical Companion to Modern Thought, edited by Alan Bullock (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £29.95)

The Kingdom by the Sea, a journey around the coast of Great Britain, by Paul Theroux (Harcourt, £29.95)

The New Testament in Scots, translated by William Laughton Lorimer (Canongate, £17.50)

The String Quartet, by Paul Griffiths (Thames & Hudson, £12)

Back Back the Clock: her best monologues and songs, by Joyce Grenell (Macmillan, £29.95)

Roads

London and South East A409: Single alternate lane and temporary signs in Heathrow Road, Bushey Heath.

A307: Hill Street, Richmond closed, diversion, congestion at peak periods. A4088: Contrailow, Blackbird Hill, Richmond, closed.

Midlands: A6: Single lane traffic with temporary lights at Oakley in Leicestershire. M6: All traffic sharing one side of motorway between junction 10 (Walsall) and junction 11 (Canwick) closed.

M3: All slip roads closed except southbound exit at junction 15, Northampton; contraflow between junctions 15 and 16.

North: A566: Carrington Road, Stockport, Greater Manchester, delays. M62: All traffic sharing one carriageway between junction 29 (M1) and junction 30 (Rothwell).

Wales and West: A429: Temporary traffic lights on Cirencester-Bourton road at Northleach. M4: All traffic sharing one carriageway between junction 20 (Almondsbury) and 21 (Bristol) closed.

A4: Bath Road, Bristol, resurfacing.

Sealink A92: Width reduced near B916 junction, west of Aberdeen.

A977: Single line traffic between Crook of Devon and Rumburg Bridge. M8: Lane closures south of junction 30 (Eskdale).

The pound

Australia \$ 1.70 1.62

Austria S 28.50 26.90

Belgium Fr 82.00 78.00

Canada \$ 1.28 1.31

Denmark Kr 14.54 13.84

France Fr 6.70 6.30

Germany DM 12.15 11.65

Greece Dr 4.01 3.82

Hong Kong \$ 147.00 139.00

India Ru 1.28 1.24

Italy Lira 242.00 232.00

Japan Yen 360.00 342.00

Netherlands Gld 4.51 4.28

Norway Kr 11.27 10.70

Portugal Esc 200.00 180.00

Spain Ptas 166.00 157.00

Sweden Kr 11.97 11.40

Switzerland Fr 3.25 3.08

USA \$ 1.51 1.46

Yugoslavia Dnr 190.00 175.00

Notes for small denominations bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 338.0

London: The FT Index closed up 4.5 at 708.2

### The papers

The New York Times thinks that President Reagan is correct in cancelling next month's visit to Manila. It says: "The ugly murder of President Marcos's political foe, Benigno Aquino, is still far from properly explained. Mr Reagan had no business embracing the embattled dictator or involving himself in any other way in the struggle between his regime and a newly-crowned opposition."

The paper thinks that Mr Reagan's absence will convey a desirable message. "With the help of a loyal army, and for lack of a clear alternative, Mr Marcos may rise out of this most serious challenge in 17 years. What he cannot easily recover is his moral authority and it is not for Americans to bestow it."

The Daily Star comes out firmly on the side of Geoffrey Boycott in the controversy surrounding Yorkshire cricket. They refer to him as "Our Geoff - that's the way we feel about him. We make no bones about it. We are on his side, and we know that the vast majority of our readers support us".

The paper accuses the Yorkshire Cricket Committee of driving the cricketer out of the county of his birth. "That cruel decision comes at the end of a season in which he has scored almost 2,000 runs - and no other batsman from the county has been able to reach even 1,000. Among his many records he has scored more Test runs than any other player in history. So is it any wonder that the Daily Star supports the campaign to have Boycott reinstated?"

The Daily Mirror also concentrated on the Boycott story calling his departure "the end of an era" and the man whose kind "we may never see again". The paper says that at his best he was brilliant, unbeatable. Opponents feared him, but his followers loved him blindly. It claims that "after this year's disaster he had to go, though it would be wrong and childish to put the blame upon him. He was a rebel, but not disloyal. But he was no longer the man for his time. So Yorkshire had to sack Geoffrey Boycott. He was old-fashioned. In the past and here, and out of game this cricket is today. He was positively ancient. Yorkshire has inflicted the cruellest punishment upon him. He has been boycotted."

The Daily Express also concentrated on the Boycott story calling his departure "the end of an era" and the man whose kind "we may never see again". The paper says that at his best he was brilliant, unbeatable. Opponents feared him, but his followers loved him blindly. It claims that "after this year's disaster he had to go, though it would be wrong and childish to put the blame upon him. He was a rebel, but not disloyal. But he was no longer the man for his time. So Yorkshire had to sack Geoffrey Boycott. He was old-fashioned. In the past and here, and out of game this cricket is today. He was positively ancient. Yorkshire has inflicted the cruellest punishment upon him. He has been boycotted."

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